# MINUTES

**Trustees Present:** Kevin Hyde (Chair), Paul McElroy (Vice Chair), Selma Besirevic, Tom Bryan, Doug Burnett, John Gol, Stephen Joost, Chris Lazzara, Nik Patel, John White

**Trustees Absent:** Jason Barrett, Jill Davis, Annie Egan

**Special Guests:** Chancellor Criser, Chair Kitson, Governor Stermon

## Item 1 Call to Order

Chair Hyde called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**Item 2 Public Comment**

Chair Hyde offered the opportunity for public comment. There were no requests for public comment.

**Item 3 Remarks by Chair Hyde and Welcome of Special Guests**

Chair Hyde welcomed Chair Kitson, Chancellor Criser, and Governor Stermon.

Chair Kitson thanked Chair Hyde and thanked President Szymanski for his leadership during the COVID pandemic. He stated that the University had embraced the metrics and performance-based funding under President Szymanski’s leadership. Chair Kitson emphasized the University’s recent attainment of an 81% retention rate and noted that, now, more than 50% of UNF students graduate in areas of strategic emphasis. He praised President Szymanski’s and the University’s outreach to students, stating that UNF has provided high-quality graduates to high -demand fields. Chair Kitson thanked the President for having created the first, university-based medical healthcare nexus, consolidating healthcare disciplines and establishing partnerships. Governor Stermon thanked President Szymanski for all that he had done for UNF. He also thanked Chair Hyde, the Board, and the President collectively for its excellent leadership and stated that he looks forward to continued excellence in leadership for the University which is so committed to its students. Chancellor Criser thanked Chair Hyde and stated that he has watched Jacksonville grow for several decades and has appreciated President Szymanski’s vision for the University to partner with other entities to further develop Jacksonville and the north Florida region. He highlighted that MEDNexus has been the most prominent example of this type of collaboration. Chancellor Criser highlighted that President Szymanski has worked to develop UNF into a university of distinction through MEDNexus.

Chair Hyde stated that the University is excited to see MEDNexus continue to develop. He also stated that President Szymanski would remain in his role as President through September 17, 2021, and that the Board was meeting to consider an amendment to the President’s contract.

Chair Hyde asked the President if he would like to make some remarks. President Szymanski stated that it had been phenomenal to work with Chair Kitson, Chancellor Criser and the Board of Governors and deeply appreciated their leadership during the pandemic. He stated that Chair Kitson, Chancellor Criser and the Board of Governors have always been responsive to the needs of the State University System universities. He thanked Chair Hyde for his leadership on the UNF Board of Trustees. President Szymanski stated that it had been an honor to work with them and the UNF Board of Trustees, to ensure that UNF students are successful.

President Szymanski stated that MEDNexus had evolved from considering the strengths and resources of UNF and other organizations in Jacksonville and North Florida and looking at gaps and the needs of healthcare in Jacksonville and the state. He stated that the University appreciated the support MEDNexus had been given by the Florida legislature and the Board of Governors. He also stated that he was excited about the next chapter for MEDNexus, further developing Jacksonville as a leader in healthcare, and remaining at UNF to work for the success of the University.

Chair Hyde also recognized First Lady Mrs. Szymanski for her dedication and work for UNF students.

**Item 4 ​Approval of Amendment to Presidential Contract**

Chair Hyde stated that President Szymanski had completed his third year of the original presidential contract, which was for a duration of four years. He reminded the Trustees that the purpose of the meeting was for the Board to consider a proposed second amendment to the contract, which would formally recognize the transition of Dr. Szymanski’s responsibilities from being President to a new role for MEDNexus. Chair Hyde stated that in the original contract, it was contemplated that there would be post-presidency opportunities and responsibilities. He stated that the Board was reviewing the proposed amendment to redefine that role and codify it within the contract.

Chair Hyde asked for a MOTION TO APPROVE and for the Board to discuss the proposed amendment to the contract. Trustee Joost made a MOTION to APPROVE and Trustee Lazzara SECONDED. Chair Hyde opened the matter up for discussion and questions. Hearing no requests for discussion and no questions, Chair Hyde asked the Trustees to vote on the amendment. The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the amendment to the presidential contract.

Chair Hyde noted that the Board would next meet, in person, on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 10:00 am to begin further work on the transition process.

## Item 5 Adjournment

Chair Hyde concluded the meeting at 2:25 p.m.