# Minutes

**Trustee Attendance**

**Present:** Annie Egan (Chair), Mike Binder, John Grosso, Chris Lazzara, Steve Moore, Kevin Hyde (ex officio)

**Absent:** Allison Korman Shelton

## Call to Order

Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

## Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

## Consent Agenda

-Draft November 16, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Egan asked for a MOTION to approve the Draft November 16, 2023 Academic and Student Affairs meeting minutes. BOT Chair Hyde made a MOTION to APPROVE, and Trustee Moore SECONDED the motion, and the committee unanimously approved the draft minutes.

## Proposed Amended Reg: 5.0010R Student Conduct Code

Ms. Robyn Blank, Associate Vice President and Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, presented the revisions to the proposed amended regulation 5.0010R Student Conduct Code. Last session, legislature passed into law a new Florida Statute: 553.865 Private Space, and the BOG subsequently adopted its own regulation 14.010 designation of restrooms and changing facilities. The statute and the regulation require that educational institutions update their student conduct codes to include disciplinary procedures for violation of these provisions. Ms. Blank stated the revision presented to the Board will add a new violation to the Student Conduct Code, 14.9, which specifically complies with the statute and the regulation. All considerations of this item have been met, including vetting by CEROC and the executive cabinet with the satisfaction of the 30-day notice and comment period. Additionally, she has worked closely with UNF partners at Recreation and Wellness and Physical Facilities to ensure UNF's signage and protocols are compliant with both the statute and the regulation. Ms. Blank inquired about the approach to compliance with the BOG and has received approval for the approach that is reflected in this revision.

Chair Egan noted this is a topic that other states and public universities have encountered. She shared her conversation with Ms. Blank regarding this revision, in which they reviewed scenarios of what would happen if students were in violation of this code.

Hearing no questions, Chair Egan asked for a MOTION to approve the proposed Amended Regulation – 5.0010R Student Conduct Code. Trustee Lazzara made a MOTION to APPROVE and BOT Chair Hyde SECONDED. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

## Proposed Amended Reg: 2.0470 R Financial Aid

Ms. Robyn Blank, Associate Vice President and Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, presented the revisions to the proposed amended regulation 2.0470R Financial Aid. She noted the revisions are more technical and will establish the Financial Aid Policy Committee, which will set policies for financial aid matters, review federal guidance, and oversee training for scholarship activities, among other duties that are enumerated in the regulation. Ms. Blank stated the committee recently reviewed this regulation and the recommended changes will make the senior Enrollment Services administrator, Dean of Enrollment Management, Dr. Glen Besterfield, a voting member of the committee instead of ex officio. This will flip the voting position with the senior Student Financial Aid administrator, which is currently Anisa Agne, and the Compliance Officer, which will both serve as ex officio. Additionally, titles of Committee members and Working Group Committee members were updated, which is explained by staff changing positions, as well as positions dropping off. All conditions proceeded to Board consideration of this item have been met, including vetting by CEROC, the Financial Aid Committee, and the executive cabinet with the satisfaction of the 30-day notice and comment period.

Chair Egan asked what precipitated this amendment. Ms. Blank shared that Dr. Besterfield has overhauled most of the enrollment management services policies and regulations. This contributed to the review, as UNF staff were looking at the setup of the committee, and realized the person who is responsible for enrollment at the highest levels should have a vote on the committee, instead of serving as staff. Chair Egan asked how many members are on the committee. Ms. Blank stated there are 5 voting members and 7 total committee members, and noted this is an internal committee. President Limayem indicated this committee is not a decision body, as it is an initial step in the process, which includes other steps for checks and balances, but the final decision will ultimately be brought to the Board.

Chair Egan asked for a MOTION to approve the Amended Regulation – 2.0470R Financial Aid. Trustee Barrett made a MOTION to APPROVE and BOT Chair Hyde SECONDED. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

## Annual Review of Academic and Student Affairs Committee Charter

Ms. Robyn Blank, Chief Compliance Officer, presented the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Charter Update Project. She indicated the Board Action Plan requires regular review of the committee charters and the review of the bylaws every two years. Ms. Blank stated the charters are adequate, however they lack uniformity in format and content, as some of the committee charters are more detailed than others. UNF staff is simultaneously reviewing the committee charters and bylaws in an attempt to harmonize the documents and create uniformity. For example, the bylaws contain a great amount of deal on committee activities, which would be better suited for the charters.

The bylaws also require that the committees meet in the sunshine, which indicates it is unnecessary to include this in each of the charters. The plan is to take the existing content of the charter and input it to the new charter template, which has four sections: role and purpose, authority, membership and meetings, and committee responsibilities. Ms. Blank stated this is a staff perspective and UNF is interested in the Board's feedback. This item will be brought back to the Committee in June for approval of the charter.

## Strategic Plan Priority: Ensure Student Success from Enrollment to Employment and Beyond

Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO), Brian Verkamp, shared strategic initiatives undertaken by the Information Technology Services department and provided an overview of the University's strategic technology initiatives aimed at enhancing student success from enrollment to employment. VP Verkamp stated there is technology available for all aspects of enrollment, recruiting, and service and support upon arrival to campus. For example, when students arrive on campus, there is a helpdesk in the library, and it is planning to be expanded with longer hours and more resources for students.

VP Verkamp highlighted three key initiatives aligning with student success:

1. *myNest* – Launched in January, this is a student success platform that anchors student success with technology. Comparable to a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, myNest functions as a student relationship management system.  It facilitates record management, provides avenues for students to seek assistance, schedule appointments, and other resources are streamlined to this platform. This is a familiar software that will expand the existing infrastructure continue to incorporate additional functionality.
2. *UNF eSports* - Recognizing the increasing popularity of eSports, VP Verkamp discussed UNF's engagement in this area. With over 650 students in the UNF eSports club, the initiative aims to tap into the $220 billion eSports industry. Beyond recreational gaming, eSports offers opportunities in production, content streaming, technology, and journalism. Mock-ups of a dedicated eSports facility at UNF were shared, emphasizing its potential to attract high school students through on-campus tournaments. Collaborative discussions with the city of Jacksonville are underway.

Trustee Lazzara recognized the growth of eSports among the younger generation and noted this is a great initiative for UNF. Additionally, Trustee Lazzara stated the interest is only going to increase, as notable hedge funds are seeking gamers for employment. VP Verkamp agreed and expressed excitement about this initiative.

1. *Student-led Security Operations Center* – First of its kind in Florida, this initiative involves bringing students into the Security Operations Center (SOC). In these centers, the student led security team monitors network anomalies, security attacks, and cybersecurity incidents. The students actively participate in tracking, responding, and gaining hands-on experience in cybersecurity. With a significant demand for cybersecurity positions in Jacksonville, this initiative seeks to address the existing skill gap and create valuable opportunities for our students. UNF is also working with the City of Jacksonville on this.

President Limayem stated members of the executive cabinet will present to the Board in this committee how they are contributing to student success. The President is excited to see how the components of each of the initiatives are in sync with the strategic plan strategic priorities. He stated this confirms that UNF's strategic plan is being used as a roadmap, and also helps allocate the resource priorities.

Trustee Lazzara commends VP Verkamp on his forward thinking, as gaming and cybersecurity coincide. He stated that he hired two UNF gaming graduates to do cybersecurity for his company, because of the incredible talent and skill. Chair Egan asked about the percentage of the student population involved with the initiatives. VP Verkamp stated the UNF eSports club has grown to over 700 members. VP Verkamp shared the superintendent of Duval County schools resonated with eSports, as she recognized her students are intrigued by this topic.

Trustee Grosso stated the concept is competitive and will fit nicely in the UNF brand. He asked if a location on campus has been determined. Trustee Grosso suggested near the Student Union and recommended upgrading the current game room space and to incorporate the eSports lounge. Additionally, Trustee Grosso inquired if the eSports lounge would be open for recreation while there are no competitions. VP Verkamp affirmed everything Trustee Grosso stated, and indicated UNF is at the early planning stages. UNF is working with the City of Jacksonville to determine a true partnership. Additionally, VP Verkamp will reach out to Student Government to find out how to proceed. Trustee Grosso communicated his excitement and willingness to assist with the project.

VP Verkamp presented the image of a jersey, which the students in the UNF eSports Club wear. The jersey is a short-sleeve navy with white and cyan accents, the front has a UNF eSports logo, and the back has "UNF" on the collar and a customizable spot for member's gamer tags, followed by their real name. Trustee Lazzara and Chair Egan expressed their enthusiasm for this initiative.

## Annual Update on Student Mental Health and Wellness / Counseling Center

Provost and Vice President, Dr. Karen Patterson, introduced Dr. Misha Bogomaz, Director of the UNF Counseling Center, to offer the Committee an update on the Center and student mental health and wellness, as well as highlight resources available to students. This update will become annual. Dr. Bogomaz is a licensed psychologist, Board Certified in Group Psychology, and a certified group psychotherapist. He is a fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association, President of the American Board of Group Psychology, etc. Dr. Bogomaz received his Doctor of Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in 2012 and has been a member of the UNF community since 2014.

Dr. Bogomaz provided a presentation, which included information about student mental health and the on-campus mental health resources available to our students. Dr. Bogomaz shared improvements in availability, outreach, and the many ways in which students can get mental health services.

UNF Counseling Center highlights include:

* Zero waitlist
* 18 full-time counselors
	+ 43 staff in the unit: including, psychologists, social workers, and clinical mental health counselors.
* Multiple partnerships
	+ housing events, presentations in classrooms, full-time counselor for athletics, school counseling research, religious literacy at work workshops, SOS committee, care team.
* Six embedded spaces
	+ main office in building 2, three offices in housing, two offices in student health, and one office in RecWell.
* 15 spring groups
	+ increased interest in group counseling and one of the reasons is because students can come in weekly and be seen for an hour and a half.

Dr. Bogomaz noted students come in for the following top four reasons: depression, anxiety, interpersonal concerns, or academic difficulties. However, some students come in to grow personally and professionally, and then they are put into group counseling. The most popular group is called *Understanding Self*, in which students come in and learn how to receive feedback, to communicate their feelings, to empathize with difference, and to have consideration for disagreements. Dr. Bogomaz stated that a group will allow students to take their skills into their personal life and improve relationships. This will provide students with interpersonal skills to be successful in their future career.

There is a website with accessible material 24/7 for various tips. The Counseling Center has emergency walk-in hours; when a student arrives, they will be seen within 15 to 30 minutes. Dr. Bogomaz emphasized no student is turned away. There is a crisis line available 24/7 and there will be a person on the line in less than a minute. Additionally, there are weekly workshops available for all students, such as art workshops, which are particularly popular around midterms and finals. If students have interest in counseling, there is a consultation meeting within a week of contacting the Counseling Center.

## Experiential Learning in the Colleges

Provost Karen Patterson defined *Experiential Learning* as a hands-on activity, in addition to traditional learning styles, such as lectures and textbooks. Examples of experiential learning include laboratory and field archival research, community projects, study abroad, practicums and internships. Provost Patterson reiterated what the President has communicated to the Board, emphasizing that students who complete internship experiences are more likely to secure a job at a higher pay.

Dean Chip Klostermeyer highlighted the types of Experiential Learning typically engaged in by students within the College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction (CCEC). Dean Klostermeyer shared the diverse opportunities provided through Student Clubs & Competitions, Internships, Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad and Senior Design. Funding for students is typically covered by UNF, to ensure cost is not a barrier to them. Dean Klostermeyer stated he looks forward to working with VP Verkamp and the ITS team to establish the SOC. Many students work with faculty to conduct hands-on research, with opportunities at UNF's JEA Sustainability Lab with a solar grid. Dean Klostermeyer noted one of the Study Abroad projects give students the opportunity to go to Italy to restore a historic villa.

Dean Klostermeyer highlighted examples of CCEC successful students:

* Last year, UNF's Construction Management Club went to National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Nationals in Las Vegas and won first place.
* Cybersecurity students won first place in the Southeast Regionals

The college takes pride in the accomplishments of its students, recognizing the collaborative efforts of faculty who guide and mentor them. The support from industry sponsors and mentors is also acknowledged and appreciated.

Chair Egan was impressed and noted these options were not available when she was in college.

## Provost’s Quarterly: Around the Nest - Internships/ Partnerships with the Community

Provost Patterson introduced Mr. Scott Curry, Senior Director of Industry Engagement, Undergraduate Studies, who presented an overview of the internship programs at UNF. Mr. Curry shared that the significant growth in Jacksonville has generated excellent internship opportunities, with over 2,300 students having completed internships. Notably, there was a 20% increase in internships in the past year compared to 2022. In 2023, a remarkable 24,000 internships were made available to students through partnerships with local, regional, and national employers.

Mr. Curry stated that all of UNF's programs have some form of elective internship credit available, if not required by the program. There has been growth in paid internships, which allows for students to work in their field to gain pivotal experience. Mr. Curry provided valuable insight into the many ways UNF works with employer partners to create effective and fruitful relationships.

Mr. Curry discussed how to connect employees with students:

* Handshake job Board
	+ This is cost-free and available to all Ospreys.
* Career Fair / UNF Career Week
	+ Over 350 employers will be on campus across five different career fairs.
	+ Last year, 60% of employers on campus were looking for internship positions to be filled.
	+ There is a cost associated with these events.
* UNF Networking Nights
	+ This is low-cost in comparison to a career fair.
	+ It is a business-casual experience for students to meet face-to-face with employers to give them an opportunity to ask questions about the employer and the field.
* Employer of the Day
	+ This is cost-free.
	+ Employers are brought to campus to highlight what they do and to network with students.
* Employer Showcase Days
	+ UNF has collaborated with Dream Finders Homes, Jacksonville Electrical Authority (JEA), Mercedes Benz USA, and Crowley to be able to give employers higher visibility.

Additionally, Mr. Curry shared how UNF is ensuring employer success:

**Innovative Programs**

* *UNF Employer Summit* – Annual event for UNF’s top volume employers.
* *Employer Orientations* – Upcoming new program held on-campus to highlight recruiting opportunities for new employers and recruiters.
* *Internship housing program* - UNF partners with local employer partners to house summer interns, seeing CSX, the Mayo Clinic and Kiewit among others housing interns here on-campus in Summer 2023 easing challenges with local short-term housing.

**Notable Employer Partnerships**

* Immersive interdisciplinary Internship programs with Dream Finders Homes, JEA, CSX and more
* 2023 saw new national employers hiring at UNF for internships, with Keurig-Dr. Pepper, Universal Parks & Resorts, Boeing, Mercedes-Benz USA, and more.

He noted UNF is here to establish, maintain, and elevate employers on campus.

Chair Egan asked how much summer housing is unused. Mr. Curry indicated the space that is not allocated to UNF students can be utilized to assist employer partners in short-term housing during the summer term. Ms. Christine Malek-Richard noted that housing is not fully utilized, however, it will be with the extension of the *Summer Bridge Summer Connections Program.* Chair Egan asked if there was a standard salary and if there is a quality control in terms of what is offered at UNF in comparison to another university. Mr. Curry stated it comes down to where the employer is located, if the role is virtual, hybrid, or in-person, and other additional variables. He noted from the Career Services side, the students remain educated on salary trends, so they are prepared for the interview and negotiation process.

Trustee Moore asked if Handshake is accessible through the new portal introduced by VP Verkamp, MyNest. Mr. Curry stated it is not on myNest, but students have access to Handshake through myWings, the main UNF portal. He indicated students are required to make a Handshake profile within the first year of enrollment. Trustee Moore suggested to include access to internships through Handshake on the myNest portal to further streamline the process for students. President Limayem agreed it would make a great addition to myNest.

Trustee Moore acknowledged CIO and VP Verkamp for his recent award and appreciated his presentation about the ITS department being a part of the business, rather than operating like their own business. He added that with the initiatives VP Verkamp discussed, UNF needs to be prepared for operational funding in the future years.

President Limayem reported research shows more than 90% of students nation-wide with an internship will have a job post-graduation with a competitive salary.

## Adjournment

Chair Egan adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM.