



**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AND INTERNAL
AFFAIRS**

Pre-Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

November 18, 2020

Time Convened: 10:00 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:44 a.m.

Committee and Board members present:

Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair and Committee Chair), David L. Brandon, Richard P. Cole, Sylvain Doré, James W. Heavener, Leonard H. Johnson, Daniel T. O’Keefe, Rahul Patel, and Trevor J. Pope

Others present were:

W. Kent Fuchs, President; Winfred Phillips, Executive Chief of Staff; Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel; Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary, Curtis Reynolds, Vice President for Business Affairs and members of the University of Florida community, and other members of the public.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Committee Chair Mori Hosseini welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Board Staff conducted a roll call of all Committee and Board members present.

3.0 Review Action Items

Committee Chair Hosseini reminded the committee that no action will be taken on today’s call. We will preview the Action Items for the December Board meeting and briefly review our key discussion items.

GGRIA1 Direct Support Organization Appointments

Vice President and General Counsel Amy Hass reviewed the proposed DSO board appointments. Nominations have been vetted by the UF leader liaison for each DSO. Committee Chair Hosseini asked if VP Hass could find out why Linda S. Parker Hudson is considered Ex-Officio. VP Hass indicated she would follow up.

GGRIA2 UF Regulations

VP Hass indicated that there will be an action item to approve repeal and amend regulations as the review process and clean up of all regulations continues. Committee Chair Hosseini asked Hass to confirm that Trustee Kuntz and VP Cowen are aware of the changes and that there aren't any changes that present issues with the initiatives underway in the financial area with our DSOs and affiliates, or otherwise.. VP Hass confirmed that the regulations changes are unrelated to any of the financial initiatives and would discuss same with VP Cowen and Trustee Kuntz.

GGRIA3 UF BOT Bylaws Amendment

VP Hass reviewed the action item to amend the UF BOT bylaws to align with the current public comment process and technological upgrades to the process.

GGRIA4 UF BOT Committee Charters

VP Hass indicated this committee will approve the revised committee charters for Audit and Compliance as well as Academic, Faculty, and Student Success, Public Relations and Strategic Communications. Both committees will review in their committees in December and take action to recommend to this committee for final approval.

Trustee Patel addressed Trustee Doré's concern that graduate students are incorporated in the new charter by pointing out that the definition of 'students' encompasses all students, undergraduate, graduate and professional.

Trustee Doré further stressed graduate students' concerns, as they have come to the Faculty Senate because they don't feel well represented. Committee Chair Hosseini indicated that he believes that Trustee Doré has a valid point and stressed the important role of graduate students to the University. He noted that he wants to ensure we review our graduate programs and professional schools performance because we want all to be ranked highly. It has been his intention to look at all their performance. President Fuchs confirmed that graduate students make up 1/3 of the student body and emphasized the crucial role graduate students play at the University including driving research. Committee Chair Hosseini requested to begin the process of looking into graduate student concerns.

4.0 Discussion Items

Committee Chair Hosseini introduced the following discussion items that will be covered in more detail at the December meeting.

4.1 Legislative Update

Vice President and University Secretary Mark Kaplan gave a brief legislative update highlighting the leadership speeches made during organizational session today. Chair Hosseini asked he share the transcripts of the speeches with the Board. VP Kaplan agreed and noted he would have a brochure with legislative message points to share with the Trustees as well.

Committee Chair Hosseini added that the new legislature may not be favorable to universities and the University needs to begin to consider what that means to the University of Florida and what the University could ask for that could make a meaningful change. He also indicated that UF needs to work to prove that the University needs our carryforward spending balance, as the state will probably want to acquire some of it this year with an expected decrease in tax revenue. Additionally, he indicated the University needs everyone's help, including the faculty to work together for the benefit of the University, as UF is a state university that gets our funding from the state. The University will have a shortfall this year but thanks to UF's reserves the University will be able to continue operating without major changes. He also indicated there may still be some additional CARES Act funds available. He went on to say that we all need to work together, including faculty with administration, to have the safest place for all students, faculty and staff.

5.0 New Business

Trustee Patel reminded the group that it is time to review Governance Standards to ensure the standards are working as prescribed. Trustee Patel stated that he and VP Hass have drafted a memo initiating the review and would ensure the memo is up-to-date. Committee Chair Hosseini asked Trustee Patel to work with VP Hass and move forward with this review process.

6.0 Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Committee Chair Hosseini adjourned at the meeting at 10:44 a.m.