



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2022

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Time Convened: 9:23 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 9:45 a.m.

Board members present:

Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair), David C. Bloom, David L. Brandon, Cooper L. Brown, Richard P. Cole, Chris T. Corr, James W. Heavener, Thomas G. Kuntz (Board Vice Chair), Daniel T. O’Keefe, Rahul Patel, Marsha D. Powers, Fred S. Ridley, and Anita G. Zucker.

Others present:

Chris Cowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Elias Eldayrie, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Joseph Glover, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel; Edward Jimenez, CEO UF Health Shands; Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary; Charlie Lane, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Marsha McGriff, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President; Thomas Mitchell, Vice President for Advancement; D’Andra Mull, Vice President for Student Life; Mary Parker, Vice President and Associate Provost; Nancy Paton, Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing; Winfred Phillips, Executive Chief of Staff; Curtis Reynolds, Vice President for Business Affairs; and members of the University of Florida Community, and the public.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Hosseini welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m.

2.0 Verification of Quorum

Vice President and University Secretary Mark Kaplan verified a quorum with all members present.

3.0 Public Comment

Vice President and General Counsel Amy Hass informed the Board there was no public comment to come before the board, but written comment had been received and would be provided to the Board.

4.0 Action Item

BT1 President Search Firm Selection

Chair Hosseini advised that he appointed a working group consisting of Vice Chair Tom Kuntz, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Charlie Lane, and Vice President and General Counsel, Amy Hass to gather information and interview top search firms with experience in

presidential searches and asked that this be completed by March 15, 2022. He stated that administration will move forward with the search firm chosen by the Board today to negotiate and execute a contract once the 15-member search committee is named. Chair Hosseini asked Vice Chair Kuntz to provide Board members with a general overview of information regarding the process and the committee's recommendation.

Vice Chair Kuntz shared that there are several presidential searches ongoing around the country and in the state of Florida. He provided background on the process sharing that the Human Resources office sourced firms across the country with experience in presidential searches and, specifically, experience with searches in Florida. HR, under the guidance of the committee produced four firms they felt were qualified to lead the search. Each firm had placed presidents at major universities across the country and in Florida. The working group went through an interview process with each firm regarding their overall qualifications. The firm that stood out was SP&A Executive Search led by managing partner Alberto Pimentel. SP&A was established in 2007 and had recently placed presidents at the University of Central Florida, Florida State University and narrowed down two finalists for the University of South Florida. The firm and Mr. Pimentel have significant experience in Florida searches and have placed leaders in the California state system. Of the presidential and chancellor placements by SP&A, 98% have remained in the role for more than 8 years. SP&A is a private firm owned by a woman and specializing in minority executive searches. Mr. Pimentel has personally committed to handling the search for UF's president and was very prepared when the committee interviewed him. He has significant knowledge in complex searches and understands the process in Florida within the Board of Governor regulations. Vice Chair Kuntz advised that the working group had conversations with sister universities who have utilized SP&A and stated they all had great things to say. The working group unanimously felt SP&A was the firm they wanted to recommend. Vice Chair Kuntz stated he was pleased on behalf of the committee to recommend SP&A to the Board for approval. He noted the fees of all four firms were relatively the same with no meaningful difference. Chair Hosseini thanked the working group for serving and praised them on an outstanding job. He then opened the floor for questions or comments.

Trustee Cole thanked the committee. He commented on the many university president openings in the state of Florida and asked if SP&A was involved in any of those. Vice Chair Kuntz advised that there is no competition or conflicts within the state and UF would be Mr. Pimentel's only focus. Chair Hosseini stated that it was important in the contract negotiations to ensure Mr. Pimentel focuses solely on our university.

Trustee Zucker thanked the working group and acknowledged their hard work. She stated that based on her review of the proposals, she agreed with the recommendation and echoed the Chair's sentiment regarding the focus on our university. She further stated she had worked with one of the other firms, William Funk, previously, and had a positive experience. Chair Hosseini stated he had also worked with one of the other firms and that they were all good options. He further stated he wanted to make it clear that no politicians had asked him to be involved in the search or to be considered as a candidate. He stated the Board's most important job is to select the best person for this job. He reflected on the passion of the Board for UF and advised the Board to not allow anyone to deter that.

Trustee O'Keefe stated this is one of the most impactful decisions the Board must make and that they will take it seriously. He further stated the decision will have a major impact on UF, that UF was very near and dear to everyone on the Board, and that the Board wants to do right thing for UF. He agreed with the working group's recommendation.

Trustee Patel thanked Vice Chair Kuntz for his work. He asked if SP&A had accepted the parameters of only working for UF in the Florida and Vice Chair Kuntz affirmed they had. Chair Hosseini stated that UF needed to pursue CEOs, members of academia, and the most successful people in the country in their search. Vice Chair Kuntz stated that each of the four firms indicated UF should look not only at academia but non-traditional candidates like Fortune 500 CEOs and to be open minded. He added Mr. Pimentel made it clear the attractiveness of the position at UF around the country.

Working group member SVP Lane stated Vice Chair Kuntz did a great job summarizing the process of the firm selected. VP Hass echoed the Vice Chair's comments.

Trustee Brandon moved to accept the recommended motion to approve the working group's recommendation of SP&A as the presidential selection firm, and Trustee Zucker seconded the motion. Chair Hosseini asked for further discussion, and then asked for all in favor of the motion and any opposed, and the motion was approved unanimously.

5.0 New Business

Chair Hosseini stated that the results of the legislative session would be shared at the April Board meeting.

6.0 Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.