



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Office of the President**

P.O. Box 160002  
Orlando, FL 32816-0002

February 20, 2019

UCF Board of Trustees  
4000 Central Florida Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32826

Dear Trustees,

Tomorrow you are meeting to discuss my offer of resignation. I know your thoughtful and robust deliberations will lead to a wise outcome for UCF.

In my letter to Chairman Garvy, I said the relationship between UCF and the Florida Legislature needs to be renewed.

A healthy relationship involves the commitment of all parties. UCF's commitment has been to finding problems and fixing them. This commitment has been the highest priority of my presidency, and I urge the university to continue in this direction.

My offer to resign represents the most significant step I can take to show we are committed to this renewal. However, the Legislature and Board of Governors must also demonstrate their commitment.

All institutions – and the systems in which they operate – depend on mutual trust and accountability among all parties, regardless of who's in charge or the politics at play. That's critical, because everyone agrees we must focus on the best interests of our students, community, and the hundreds of thousands of businesses and jobs that depend on a UCF that is thriving and respected.

Rebuilding this relationship requires mutual assurances from the Legislature and Board of Governors that would show evidence of a shared commitment to the future of our students in the ways I have outlined on page 2 of this letter. Based on these considerations, I offered my resignation as a way to end punitive measures and threats, and restore normalcy to a healthy relationship.

Florida needs a UCF that serves our students and community without fear of what the future may bring. Great universities and our state depend on trust and transparency with a Legislature that shares in its values and mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Whittaker", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dale Whittaker  
**President**



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**The terms below outline the roadmap to a healthy relationship by removing punitive measures and restoring normalcy:**

**Governor:**

- Stated confidence in the current UCF Trustees, as evidenced by a normal reappointment cycle without interruption.
- No pre- or post-legislative actions that are detrimental to UCF's state operating and capital budgets or leadership, including detrimental proviso language or vetoes.

**Board of Governors:**

- Stated confidence in the current UCF Trustees, as evidenced by a normal reappointment cycle without interruption.
- Concludes its investigation into UCF by issuing its report and making policy recommendations for improving clarity, accountability, and transparency for the State University System.
- Restoring key UCF initiatives that have been suspended during the investigation, including:
  - The UCF College of Nursing building at Lake Nona (no state funding requested)
  - Plant, Operation & Maintenance Funding
  - Support for Legislative authorization to spend UCF funds for remodeling of Engineering I (\$20 million), and two HVAC Replacements (\$8.6 million and \$7.8 million)
  - Allow UCF to move forward with its plan to create the \$40 million Constellation Fund for student scholarships

**Legislature:**

- No punitive impact on UCF's base operating budget or performance funding.
- No punitive proviso language in the final FY 2019-20 state budget.
- Full consideration for authorization to spend UCF funds for remodeling of Engineering I (\$20 million), and two HVAC Replacements (\$8.6 million and \$7.8 million) if requested by the Board of Governors.
- Protection (and funding) of UCF's Center for Community Schools as lawmakers seek to expand the program statewide.
- House Public Integrity and Ethics Committee concludes its investigation, issues its report and makes policy recommendations for improving clarity, accountability, and transparency for the State University System.