



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Office of the President
P.O. Box 160002
Orlando, FL 32816-0002

February 19, 2019

Robert A. Garvy, Chairman
UCF Board of Trustees
4000 Central Florida Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32816

Dear Chairman Garvy,

Since the beginning of my presidency, UCF has been faced with the grave challenge of how to respond to the controversy involving Trevor Coburn Hall (“TCH”), and the broader systemic problems that led to the improper use of E&G funds by prior UCF administrators.

Since the beginning of the process, I have had three goals. My first goal was to do everything in my power to support a full, accurate, and impartial investigation of the circumstances that led us to this point. My second goal was to immediately begin implementing reforms in both procedures and culture at UCF to prevent such an incident from ever occurring again; and to encourage an ongoing process of continually refining those reforms so we will continue to improve as an institution. Finally, my third goal has been to repair and restore the public’s full trust and confidence in UCF, and to do everything in my power to begin healing the relationships between UCF and our funding partners in the legislative and executive branches of state government.

To accomplish the first goal, I directed all our university personnel to fully support the investigation initiated by the Board of Trustees, as well as the investigation being conducted by the Florida Board of Governors and Florida Legislature, to ensure that a full, accurate, and complete inquiry and record is made of all the circumstances surrounding TCH and other projects. I have personally given my own sworn testimony, and I will continue to support efforts to understand the incident, so that both UCF and the state university system can improve itself with better policies and procedures.

To accomplish the second goal, I made aggressive and far-reaching changes to fix the problems revealed by these investigations. To date, we have instituted the most comprehensive reorganization of personnel, policies, and controls in UCF history. I’ve engaged nationally respected, outside experts to advise us about best practices in financial reporting and accountability, and we are continuing to critically review the changes and improvements we have made, so that our pursuit of excellence in university governance will be ongoing.

To accomplish the third goal, both I and the members of our administration have met with countless students, alumni, and faculty. We conveyed our apologies for what went wrong and shared our commitment to making it right. I have done the same with both our Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors, and we have communicated extensively with legislative leadership and staff. Because we are a state university, ensuring the confidence of and maintaining a healthy relationship with state government is paramount to UCF’s success.



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We have made great progress and UCF is pointed in the right direction.

However, to fully implement my third goal of restoring confidence in UCF by state government leaders, it has been made clear to me that one additional step is needed. Sometimes the best leadership decision you can make is to entrust leadership to others. I have concluded that for UCF to succeed with our state leaders in the future, new leadership will be required. I do not reach this conclusion lightly, because it has been my privilege and honor to lead UCF through one of the most serious challenges in its history. To help our university completely transition beyond its current circumstances, I believe my own personal transition is necessary.

Therefore, I offer my resignation as president to you and the Board of Trustees. I do so with the conviction that I have always acted with integrity and honesty, and with optimism that the relationship between UCF and the Legislature can be renewed. That healthy relationship is essential for the university to serve our more than 68,000 students in one of the fastest-growing, most diverse regions in the United States.

With you and our trustees making wise decisions about the future, I know UCF is in good hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Whittaker", is written in a cursive style.

Dale Whittaker
President