Dr. Mark Rosenberg  
Chancellor, State University System of Florida  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0040  

Dear Chancellor Rosenberg:

In September 2005, the University of Central Florida submitted to the Florida Board of Governors its proposal to establish a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Degree Program. Approximately two months after the submission of that proposal, the Tavistock Group pledged to donate a 50-acre site in Lake Nona and $12.5 million in support of a medical college at UCF. Subsequent to this lead gift, the university received commitments of over $100 million (including the state matching funds) to support the construction of medical college facilities at the Lake Nona site. The 50-acre site at Lake Nona has now been designated the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona and will afford UCF the opportunity to build a new medical college and expand its existing instructional and research activities in a variety of health-related fields. Doing so will reduce the growing stress on our main campus facilities and infrastructure. The $12.5 million cash gift from the Tavistock Group has been received by UCF, and final arrangements have been made for the transfer of the 50 acres.

The Florida Board of Governors approved creating a medical college at UCF in March of 2006, the Legislature formalized their authorization in May, and the law took effect on July 1, 2006. Construction of the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona will begin within the next three months, with the Biomedical Research Building being the first building to be constructed. The Biomedical Research Building was described as the Bio-Medical Science Center in the 2005-06 appropriation bill and was slated to be constructed on the main campus of the University of Central Florida. The building was, and remains, intended to support the instructional and research activities of the Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences. However, the Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences will move to the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona, where its instructional and research activities will be greatly enhanced through interactions with the UCF College of Medicine and other biomedical and clinical activities attracted by the medical college. The planning and design for the Biomedical Research Building is in its final stages, with groundbreaking planned for this spring. The building will encompass approximately 200,000 gross square feet and will include research and instructional space, core support laboratories, administrative offices, student space, and a vivarium. Funding for the building comes from legislatively appropriated PECO funds, donor pledges, and state matching funds.
All of the student educational activities that supported the need for the Biomedical Research Building will move to the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona. Accordingly, this letter requests approval to build the Biomedical Research Building on the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona rather than on our main campus. The intent for the Biomedical Research Building to become an integral part of the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona was discussed many times during Board of Governors discussions and deliberations, documented in materials provided to the Board of Governors, included in discussion regarding the economic impact of the college of medicine (including discussions with the Governor and key legislators), and was central to the shared vision of creating a medical cluster at the Lake Nona site. The Legislature authorized the UCF College of Medicine specifically “as approved by the BOG” on March 23, 2006, implying legislative approval of the relocation of the building. With the approval of a UCF College of Medicine and in recognition of the shared vision of creating a medical cluster at Lake Nona, the Burnham Institute chose to locate its new Florida initiative adjacent to the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona, the University of Florida announced its intent to build a research facility adjacent to the Burnham Institute and the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona, and discussions are ongoing with several health care providers to build hospitals in close proximity to the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona. Furthermore, the Veterans Administration has designated Lake Nona as one of two potential sites in Orlando for a new hospital, and the Congress has authorized that construction.

Also included in the first phase of the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona will be the UCF College of Medicine instructional and learning resource center, which will become known simply as the UCF College of Medicine Building. This approximately 130,000 sq. ft. building will include instructional space, teaching laboratories, faculty offices, a medical library/learning resource center, and all required support space. The building will be funded through existing private gifts and associated state matching funds and will include no PECO funds. Current projections are that the College of Medicine Building will be complete in time for the matriculation of the first class of 40 medical students in Fall 2009. We are currently finalizing the selection of the construction manager and architect.

Over time, other health-related programs will be relocated to the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona. Doing so will allow programs such as nursing, radiological technology, communicative disorders, health information systems, and physical therapy to benefit from close proximity to, and collaborative educational and research initiatives with, the medical college and the Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences. The instructional and research initiatives of these health-related programs will also benefit from interactions with the rapidly-growing medical cluster. The master plan for the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona (see Figure 1) also envisions additional research space to be built as funds become available for facilities. At total build-out, the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona will include between 1.5 and 2.0 million sq. ft. of instructional, research, and support space.

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December 21, 2006
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Figure 1: Lake Nona Master Plan Depicting Locations of Initial Buildings

The university also requests that the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona be initially approved as a Type III Branch Campus. The campus is expected to open in Fall 2009, with anticipated growth to a Type I Branch Campus in five years. The UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona will be located on 50 acres in the Lake Nona community east of the Orlando International Airport. The site is south of State Road 417 at a new interchange between Boggy Creek and Narcoosee Roads (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Location of the UCF Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona
Beginning in Fall 2009, only the student FTE associated with the M.D. program and the graduate biomedical programs will be located at the Lake Nona Campus. Later, it is anticipated that the upper division FTE associated with nursing and various allied health programs will move from the UCF main campus to the Lake Nona site. As envisioned, the campus will eventually accommodate as many as 5,000 upper division, professional, and graduate students and faculty members in the health-related programs, and include up to 2 million square feet of research and instruction space. The table below provides a 10-year projection of the expected upper division, professional, and graduate FTE that would be located at the Lake Nona campus.

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Note that the jump in enrollment in year 2011 is the result of the anticipated move of the nursing program to the Lake Nona campus, and the jump in year 2013 represents the anticipated move of the allied health programs to the Lake Nona campus.

The university has raised more than $100 million for construction, including private donations, state matching funds, and the value of the Tavistock Group’s gift of land at Lake Nona. No PECO requests for the Lake Nona campus are anticipated for the next three years.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Hickey, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President

c: President John C. Hitt
   Dr. Daniel Holsenbeck