



Board of Trustees

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October 21, 2014

Morteza Hosseini,  
Chairman  
Florida Board of Governors  
325 W. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

**Re: Confirmation of University of Florida President-elect, Dr. W. Kent Fuchs**

Dear Mr. Hosseini:

As you were among the first to know, on October 15, 2014, the University of Florida Board of Trustees unanimously and enthusiastically selected Cornell University Provost, Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, as the University of Florida's 12<sup>th</sup> President. With great excitement, I am now writing to request the Board of Governor's final confirmation of Dr. Fuchs as UF's President, as required by BOG Regulation 1.001 (5)(c). In submitting this request, and as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Search Committee, I thank you for serving as a valued Senior Advisor to the search and thank Board of Governors Vice Chairman, Thomas Kuntz, for serving as an active member of the UF Presidential Search Committee. Maintaining close communications with you and Tom throughout UF's nation- and world-wide search for our next President, and having Tom's active participation on the Search Committee, contributed to the success of our efforts.

In our search, the University of Florida Board of Trustees and Search Committee sought to recruit a proven leader with a distinguished academic career, as well as a record in large and complex academic research settings of excellence in governance, management, operations, fundraising, resource development, team-building, collaboration and communications--an exceptional individual who could lead and advance the University of Florida for the future. As a longstanding member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), UF sought a leader who would build on our accomplishments to reach the top 10 of public AAU institutions in national rankings, to continue to perform well against metrics established by the UF Board and the Board of Governors, and to collaborate with the Board of Governors and the entire State University System to support and enhance achievement in higher education, academic research and innovation. We also sought a leader who would fully appreciate and be committed to the University of Florida's land-grant mission of service to the State of Florida, the nation and the world.

After the Search Committee met on October 13, 2014 to review 16 applications under the comprehensive UF Board-approved search criteria, the Search Committee interviewed three exceptional leaders on October 14, 2014--Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, Provost of Cornell University (ranked 15<sup>th</sup> among all U.S. universities), Dr. David W. McLaughlin, Provost of New York University (ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> among all U.S. universities), and Dr. Sibrandes Poppema, President of Groningen University in the Netherlands (ranked in the top 100 in global rankings of universities). Each candidate's substantial strengths under the search criteria were acknowledged, and the Search Committee referred Drs. Fuchs and McLaughlin as finalists to the Board of Trustees, which interviewed them on October 15, 2014.

The University of Florida Board of Trustees selected a nationally prominent and talented leader who well-meets the UF Board's comprehensive criteria in Dr. W. Kent Fuchs. As UF Board Chairman, I respectfully request confirmation of Dr. Fuchs by the Board of Governors at its November 6, 2014 meeting. Attached is the additional information required by the Board of Governors. I hope you and Board of Governors General Counsel, Vikki Shirley, will feel free to contact me and University of Florida Vice President, General Counsel and University Secretary, Jamie Lewis Keith, if we can answer any questions. Dr. Fuchs and I look forward to seeing you on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Scott, Chairman  
University of Florida Board of Trustees

Cc: Dr. W. Kent Fuchs  
Vikki Shirley, Esq., BOG  
Jamie Lewis Keith, Esq., UF

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Members of the Search Committee
- Attachment 2: Search Criteria
- Attachment 3: Search Timeline, Process, and Summary of Key Milestones
- Attachment 4: Position Profile and Responsibilities
- Attachment 5: Position Advertisement
- Attachment 6: Letter of Application and CV of Dr. W. Kent Fuchs
- Attachment 7: References for Dr. W. Kent Fuchs
- Attachment 8: Summary of Key Contract Terms and Mercer Report of July 7, 2014
- Attachment 9: Statement Regarding Florida Law.