



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 16, 2026

Mr. Ray Rodrigues
Chancellor
State University System of Florida
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Dear Chancellor Rodrigues –

On February 25, 2026, the Florida State University Board of Trustees unanimously approved the attached amendment to President Richard McCullough's employment agreement extending his contractual term as president from its current end date of August 31, 2026, to August 31, 2029. Respectfully, on behalf of the FSU Board of Trustees, I request consideration and approval by the Board of Governors of this well-deserved extension of President McCullough's term as president of Florida State University (FSU).

As we celebrate the university's 175th anniversary, I am energized by the extraordinary momentum President McCullough has built over the past five years, significantly forwarding our mission of transforming lives and driving discovery. His tireless efforts have firmly established Florida State as a national standard for excellence. I am incredibly proud of the milestones we have achieved, for example:

- **Unprecedented Academic Rankings:** We reached our highest national ranking at number 51 among all universities and number 21 among publics. Most recently, FSU was recognized as number one in Florida for innovation and economic impact by *TIME*.
- **Record-Breaking Student Success:** Our freshman retention rate has climbed to a record 97%, while our four-year graduation rate now stands at 78%. We continue to be a destination of choice, receiving over 92,000 applications for our incoming freshman class.
- **A Growing Research Powerhouse:** Since 2021, our research expenditures have increased by 50%, reaching a record \$488 million. We have launched transformative initiatives in aerospace, quantum science, and health, including the historic integration of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital into FSU Health.
- **Philanthropic Momentum:** From the \$65 million gift establishing the Herbert Wertheim College of Business to the largest-ever gift for the College of Nursing, our donors have shown immense confidence in our trajectory.

While these achievements are significant, I believe we are just getting started. A three-year extension

will allow President McCullough to see critical projects through to completion, including the expansion of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, the full realization of the FSUHealth academic health center, and the continued modernization of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Each of these ambitious undertakings are ambitious, multi-year projects requiring strong advocacy and continuity of leadership.

Thank you for the Board of Governors' continued support of Florida State University and President McCullough.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter H. Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a trailing flourish.

Peter H. Collins
Chairman