

Board of Trustees

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October 21, 2019

Chair Ned C. Lautenbach
Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Lautenbach:

At its September 6, 2019 meeting, the University of Florida (UF) Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend President W. Kent Fuchs' presidential appointment. Subject to the approval of the Board of Governors, beginning July 1, 2020, President Fuchs will serve at the pleasure of the UF Board of Trustees in an at-will capacity. (The terms and conditions of President Fuchs' current employment contract will continue through June 30, 2020.)

In accordance with Board of Governors regulations, we are now requesting the Board of Governors' confirmation of President Fuchs' appointment extension. During his first five years of service to UF, President Fuchs has represented our university at the state and national levels, and has led UF to many remarkable accomplishments. The UF Board of Trustees believes that President Fuchs' continued leadership is critical to the overall success of UF, with a focus on our students' success, as we work toward becoming a top five public university.

I am very pleased to provide this summary of accomplishments for President Fuchs in support of his appointment extension:

- The State University System gained its first top-ten public university in UF, with our university rising from 14th in 2014 to 7th currently in the annual *U.S. News* rankings.
- UF's student-faculty ratio improved from 21:1 to 18:1.
- Applications from students soared from 29,000 to 42,000.
- Research expenditures climbed 23 percent from \$709M to \$865M – today constituting about 37 percent of all SUS research expenditures.
- Annual philanthropy grew from \$302M to \$526M.
- In addition to our overall university ranking at #7, UF has 28 graduate programs among public and privates ranked in the top 30 in their disciplines – up from 20 two years ago.
- Four-year graduation rates have improved from 66% in 2014 to 68% in 2018. Six-year graduation rates have improved from 87% in 2014 to 90% in 2018.

- UF's Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator was named the 2017 Incubator of the Year among 7,500 incubators worldwide by the International Business Innovation Association.
- The Milken Institute in 2017 ranked UF 3rd in the Best Universities for Technology Transfer – ahead of Stanford and MIT.
- The New York Times in 2017 ranked UF 6th among all public and private universities nationally in helping low-income students succeed. UF ranked above Harvard, Princeton and Stanford – and was the only public university not in the University of California system in the top-ten.
- UF History Professor Jack Davis won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize and UF Physics Professor Clifford Will won the 2019 Albert Einstein Medal.
- As UF has increased in stature and reputation, Florida's university system has seen great gains, ranked by U.S. News as the #1 higher education system in the country for three years running.

Amid all of his accomplishments, President Fuchs has created an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared ambition across UF. He believes, and I agree, that UF can be a beacon for Florida as we become a leading state in developing solutions to the great challenges of our era.

On behalf of the UF Board of Trustees, we ask for your support and confirmation of the appointment extension for President W. Kent Fuchs, effective July 1, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Morteza Hosseini
Chair of the Board of Trustees
University of Florida