



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Student Body Senate
Student Government
P.O. Box 163230
Orlando, Florida 32816-3233

March 14, 2020

Board of Trustees
University of Central Florida
4365 Andromeda Loop North
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

We, the undersigned Student Body Senators, write to express our disappointment with the Board's decision to pick our University's next president without additional in-person student involvement and other actions that have led a cloud of secrecy to engulf the presidential selection process.

The decision to shutter its doors and send students home for the next two weeks as a result of COVID-19, a World Health Organization categorized global pandemic, shows us that the University prioritizes students' well-being.

The decision to select our next president during the University closure, as the Orlando Sentinel reported the Board's plans to do, is clear evidence that students' voices are not a priority. The Board's plan to implement "virtual open forums" is not sufficient as technology can oftentimes be faulty. Furthermore, this move eliminates any credible argument that scheduling the selection during this tumultuous time was a lapse in judgment on the part of the Board.

Additionally, the plan to welcome a "highly visible" candidate after the list of finalists was already released to the Student Body, adds insult to injury. Ironically, the highly visible candidate's identity remains concealed.

Our displeasure with these developments is borne out of our belief that students should have the opportunity to vet these candidates and have in-person interactions with them. These interactions are crucial to allowing students to communicate with the finalists interpersonally--something a screen would deprive them.

As representatives of the Student Body, we consider it our duty to stand up for their best interest so we implore the Board to postpone the search until after the University re-opens. Anything otherwise would be a highly visible unethical act.

Moreover, with the closures and cancellations of major venues and events across the globe in direct response to COVID-19 and projections the pandemic will worsen, it would be an appropriate and expected precautionary measure to postpone the work of the Board.

We look forward to communicating further with the Board to ensure the search remains student-focused, transparent and forthright until its conclusion.

Sincerely,

Fritz Farrow
Senate President

Emma Custis
Student Body Senator

Emma Brandow
Student Body Senator

Rochenide St Preux
Student Body Senator

Christopher Slaughter
Student Body Senator

Arslan Ahkmetov
Student Body Senator

Lauren Bonfont
Student Body Senator

Christopher Morris
Student Body Senator

Natalia Correa-Ferro
Senate President Pro Tempore

Rob Gray
Student Body Senator

Mitch Shave
Student Body Senator

Kelly Lopez
Student Body Senator

Rotem Raz
Student Body Senator

Micah James
Student Body Senator

Rachel Friant
Student Body Senator

Stephen Acosta
Student Body Senator

Matthew Bonachea
Student Body Senator

Nicolas Bonaduce
Student Body Senator

Lucas Gorlin-Tarbell
Student Body Senator

Selma Besirevic
Student Body Senator

Ayan Desai
Student Body Senator

Ryan Regan
Student Body Senator

Joseph Tufo
Student Body Senator

Atiyah Appline
Student Body Senator

Shenella Foster
Student Body Senator

Mary Guerra
Student Body Senator

Joseph Davis
Student Body Senator

Melissa Millington
Student Body Senator

Helda Said
Student Body Senator

Connor Grodi
Student Body Senator