



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

[Ad Hoc] Land Development Committee **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

**September 18, 2026
8:30 A – 9:30 A**

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Eliot Peace called the [Ad Hoc] Land Development Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Kristen Wharton called the roll: Committee Chair Eliot Peace, Trustee Sumanth Neelam, Trustee Patrick Hagen, Trustee Sidney Theis, Trustee Jack Harrell, III, and Trustee Jesse Panuccio were present (Quorum).

Committee members not present: n/a

Other Trustees Present: Chair Beth Kigel; Trustee Rob Kincart; Trustee Derek Henderson

Staff Present: President Devin Stephenson, Provost Brad Thiessen, Dr. Tanner McKnight, David Blanton, Dr. Cole Allen, Kelli Stargel, Katie Daniel, and Kristen Wharton

III. Public Comment

There were no requests received for public comment.

IV. Charter

Committee Chair Peace presented the draft Committee Charter, which had been provided to the trustees in advance for their review. There was no discussion on this item.

Trustee Sidney Theis motioned to approve the Committee Charter as presented. Trustee Sumanth Neelam seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. External Relations and Economic Development

Vice President Kelli Stargel presented the land development update on behalf of Maggie Mariucci.

Stargel reported that Mariucci continues to represent the University on the Central Florida Innovation District (CFID) Committee, coordinated through the Central Florida Development Council (CFDC). The committee comprises representatives from the City of Lakeland, the Lakeland Economic Development Council, the CFDC, the City of Auburndale, and Polk County to monitor and coordinate regional development initiatives.

Stargel further reported that Mariucci met with representatives from the Williams Company in late July to maintain positive relations and reaffirm the University's interest in acquiring adjacent property. The Williams Company was requested to keep the University's institutional mission central to future development

discussions. Additionally, the University maintains ongoing engagement with emerging and prospective area businesses to ensure surrounding growth aligns with University priorities.

VI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristen Wharton

Corporate Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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