



UCF Board of Trustees

July 30, 2024

Agenda Item

BOT-2: Legislative Budget Request – Strategic Investments

Proposed Action

The Board of Trustees is asked to consider approval of the proposed University of Central Florida's Legislative Budget Request submission to the Board of Governors.

Authority for Board of Trustees Action

Section 1001.706(4)(b), Florida Statutes: The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative budget requests for the State University System, including a request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State Board of Education for inclusion in the K-20 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats, and instruction for the development of individual university budget requests.

Section 1001.7065 (7), Florida Statutes: The Board of Governors shall establish standards and measures whereby state universities that focus on one core competency unique to the State University System that achieves excellence at the national or state level, meets state workforce needs, and fosters an innovation economy that focuses on areas such as health care, security, transportation, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including supply chain management, can be identified. The Board of Governors may annually submit such programs, excluding those from preeminent state research universities to the Legislature by January 1 for funding.

Board of Governors Regulation 1.001 University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties (6) Financial Management: (a) Each board of trustees shall be responsible for the financial management of its university and shall submit an institutional budget request, including a request for fixed capital outlay, and an operating budget to the Board of Governors for approval in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Governors.

Supporting Documentation Included

Attachment A: 2025-26 Legislative Budget Request - Form I

Attachment B: 2025-26 Legislative Budget Request - Form II

Facilitators/Presenters

Alexander N. Cartwright, President

Michael Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Janet Owen, Vice President for Government and Community Relations

Summary of Key Observations/Recommendations

The University of Central Florida's proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request (LBR) seeks new funding to support strategic investments that will enable UCF to:

- Continue to expand the university's capacity to educate 20,000 students annually in engineering, computer science, and related programs.
- Foster structured and integrated partnerships with Florida's high-tech industries to maximize UCF's support in driving their growth.
- Fund the required infrastructure to support excellent teaching and research and increased student support.
- Invest in excellence to position UCF as a global leader in engineering education and moving toward a Top 25 ranking.
- The proposal outlines investments that align with UCF's strategic priorities and leverage its successful track record of industry collaboration. These investments aim to enhance UCF's ability to provide the talent and intellectual capital necessary for Florida's future.

Additional Background

UCF's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 LBR builds on the trajectory-changing successes of the state's previous three years of investment. UCF continues to graduate the highest number of students annually in the SUS, serving as a launchpad for individual and community prosperity, and producing the highly skilled leaders needed for Florida's future-focused workforce. For example:

- UCF has increased its enrollment in our College of Engineering and Computer Science by approximately 1,500 students in the past two years and the college is on track to increase by an additional 1,000 in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- UCF's engineering is ranked #45 among public institutions in the most recent U.S. News and World Report rankings and is one of only two Florida institutions ranked in the Top 50 of public engineering colleges around the nation.
- UCF has hired top-producing faculty in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, as well as other STEM-focused colleges. These experts specialize in critical areas such as AI, Cybersecurity, Energy, Semiconductors, Aerospace, and Digital Twin technology. They are positively impacting students through teaching, research, and experiential learning opportunities.

Implementation Plan

The Board of Governors (BOG) has issued instructions, on behalf of Chancellor Ray Rodrigues, for the submission of University Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) for fiscal year 2025-2026. The deadline for universities to submit their LBRs to the BOG is July 31, 2024.

The BOG will take up its State University System (SUS) LBR at its next meeting on September 18, 2024 and will submit it to the Governor by October 15, 2024.

Resource Considerations

The attached proposals are a request for additional state funding.