Board of Trustees Update Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2007

The Board of Trustees and the United Faculty of Florida negotiating teams continued to discuss three of the last four items to be agreed upon during a bargaining session Thursday, Sept. 13.

The UFF team proposed some changes to Article 8, which pertains to faculty appointments. The goal is to make the language clear about when stipends will and will not be included in base salary for those taking appointments such as chairs of departments. The team is also looking for clearer ways to notify employees of the terms of such appointments. The BOT team will review and come back with its proposal at the next meeting.

The UFF team also presented changes to Article 10, which covers employee performance and evaluations. There had been much previous discussion about evaluations and what time frame should be used to complete them. Among the changes proposed is to have evaluations done on an academic calendar instead of an annual calendar. The team is also asking that evaluations be given to faculty no later than 60 days after annual activity reports are due. The BOT team had earlier proposed 90 days. The BOT team will review and come back with its response at the next meeting.

The BOT team presented its changes to Article 16 -- Disciplinary Action and Job Abandonment.

Responding to the desire to not move forward with a formal hearing process, the BOT removed language pertaining to hearing procedures. The two sides remain far apart on other portions of this article, but agreed to continue to meet and discuss this section of the contract.

The Board of Trustees and UFF teams have been meeting for the past nine months to develop a new contract. The UFF represents about 1,500 faculty members on campus. The current three-year contract expired Aug. 31, 2007.

The current contract remains in place until a new contract is agreed upon and ratified. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25.