Chairman Lutgert convened the special conference call meeting of the University Board of Trustees from the Student Union Ball Room at 10:00 a.m. November 20, 2003 with the following members present:

Via Telephone: Present: Scott Lutgert
Brian Cobb Donna Price Henry
Larry Hart Jeff Faramo
Bernie Lester
David Lucas
Ed Morton
Linda Taylor
Michael Villalobos
Charles Idelson Ex-Officio Trustee

Members of staff present were:

William Merwin, President
Brad Bartel, Provost
Joseph Shepard, Vice President for Administrative Services
Wendy Morris, General Counsel
Susan Evans, Special Assistant to the President
Kathy Bottoms, Administrative Assistant
Barbara Krell, Executive Assistant to the President

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call – Chair Scott Lutgert**

Chair Lutgert greeted the trustees and stated for the record that we are holding this meeting with members of the FGCU Board of Trustees by conference call. The meeting and agenda were duly noticed as required by law, and members of the public and media were invited to join us in the Student Union Ballroom, where this meeting is originating. As required by law, minutes of this meeting are being taken as with our in-person meetings, and these minutes will be part of the January 2004 Board meeting agenda for approval. Chair Lutgert stated that if there were any members of
the audience who wish to make brief public comment on the agenda items, should see Ms. Bottoms to complete a Speaking Request Form.

Ms. Evans called the roll with members present as listed above. Chairman Lutgert turned the meeting over to President Merwin for the President’s Report.

2. President’s Report – President Bill Merwin

President Merwin reported that he and Dr. Healy have been meeting with members of the Southwest Florida Legislative Delegation since last September. Discussions have centered around critical need for growth funding during the 2004 legislative session and also matching facilities funds for the resort and hospitality management classroom building. He stated that the Southwest Florida Chamber of Commerce has given us great support for these issues.

President Merwin stated that he has authorized Provost Bartel to move forward with the hiring of twenty-seven (27) new faculty and staff for next year. We are anticipating another three hundred in student growth bringing our total FTE over 3,700 for the coming year. These positions will be funded out of non-recurring dollars.

President Merwin reported that he is also moving forward with a Salary Equity Adjustment for our faculty, A&P and USPS employees. Over the last year and a half, we have been informed by nearly all our faculty through various climate surveys that our salaries have been falling further behind our peer groups. President Merwin stated he made the decision to move forward based on the fact that our revenue collections are up. He reported that we would be spending approximately $600,000 beginning in January to make adjustments to faculty, A&P, and USPS salaries. The goal is to bring individuals to at least 95% of the median salary. The $600,000 represents only one-half the year and becomes a $1.2 million expenditure next fall. President Merwin stated he feels this is something that we need to do because we are falling further behind and we don’t want to lose some of our best employees as a result.

President Merwin reported that Governor Bush recently convinced the Legislature to commit $320 million to act as an incentive for the Scripps Research Institute to relocate to South Florida. Scripps is moving sometime this year to West Palm
Beach. Florida Gulf Coast University, along with some of the other universities, wishes to become involved in this initiative. We will have our own research park and have begun our biotechnology undergraduate degree program. We think we are appropriately suited for some of the spin offs that might occur from this move. He reported that on Monday of next week he and Dr. Randall Alberte, Director of our Biotechnology Program, would be visiting with some of the officials from the Scripps Institute in La Jolla, California to see if we can make our case.

President Merwin reported on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results for Florida Gulf Coast University. This survey queries freshman and seniors about whether they feel their education has been worthwhile. President Merwin reported that Florida Gulf Coast University ranks no lower than the 85th percentile and as high as the 99th percentile on the five measures of quality of school. He stated that we believe this survey has validity and reliability and are very proud of our accomplishments in this instance.

President Merwin stated that last evening he attended the Tommy Howard Lecture Series along with 300 business people, faculty, students and staff at Grandezza Country Club. The event focused on the United States monetary policies and the types of changes within the federal government.

3. Finance & Administration Committee Meeting – Chair Bernie Lester

Chairman Lutgert stated that today we would convene the Administration and Finance Committee and take up the committee items. Prior to any votes, public comment will be heard on agenda items to which individuals have indicated they wish to speak. Following this public comment, we will vote on action items, and the vote outcome will constitute action by the entire Board. Chairman Lutgert stated there are no requests for public comment at this time. He called on Trustee Lester who is Chair of the Administration and Finance.

Chairman Lester introduced Item 2: Permanent Rule Change Tuition & Fees and Item 3: Emergency Rule Change – Tuition & Fees and indicated they are to be considered together. Chair Lutgert recognized Dr. Shepard who reviewed background information related to these agenda items. A motion was made by Vice Chair Taylor to approve these rule changes. Motion was
Chairman Lester introduced Item 4: Permanent Rule Change – Parking and Item 5: Emergency Rule Change – Parking for consideration by the Board. Dr. Shepard provided background information regarding these two rule changes. A motion was made by Trustee Lucas to approve these rule changes. Motion was seconded by Chairman Lutgert. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lester introduced Item 6: Revision to Florida Gulf Coast University Financing Corporation Articles of Incorporation. Dr. Shepard provided the background information regarding this item. A motion was made to approve this revision by Trustee Hart. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lester introduced Item 7: Revision to Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustee Bylaws. Dr. Bartel reviewed the background regarding this agenda item. A motion was made by Vice Chair Taylor to approve this revision. Motion was seconded by Chair Lutgert. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda - Chair Scott Lutgert

Chairman Lutgert asked if there was a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2003 meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Price Henry to approve the Minutes. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

President Merwin offered congratulations to Trustee Morton for the lifetime achievement award he will be receiving from Edison Community College.

5. Chair’s Closing Remarks – Chair Scott Lutgert

Chairman Lutgert thanked the trustees, President Merwin and staff and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Meeting adjourned 10:35 a.m.