



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### COMMENDATION OF JUDITH A. BENSE AS PRESIDENT EMERITUS

- WHEREAS,** PRESIDENT JUDITH A. BENSE HAS GIVEN 36 YEARS OF UNWAIVERING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA; AND
- WHEREAS,** LONG BEFORE BEING NAMED THE FIFTH PRESIDENT OF UWF, JUDITH BENSE WAS A VITAL FORCE IN THE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY; AND
- WHEREAS,** SINCE ARRIVING AT UWF ON DECEMBER 31, 1979, PRESIDENT BENSE HAS SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN NUMEROUS LEADERSHIP ROLES, INCLUDING BECOMING THE FIRST ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY, FOUNDER OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY INSTITUTE AND FOUNDER OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHEOLOGY NETWORK; AND
- WHEREAS,** PRESIDENT BENSE, AS UWF'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SINCE JULY 1, 2008, HAS PROVIDED EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY, RAISING IT TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ALL OF ITS MISSIONS – TEACHING, RESEARCH, SERVICE, GROWTH, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT, STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION, IMPROVING STUDENT LIFE – AND TOUCHING THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY THE INSTITUTION; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN ADDITION TO HER RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESIDENT, JUDITH BENSE WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE GREATER PENSACOLA CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL OF 100, THE PRESIDENT'S COALITION OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA, AND THE DOWNTOWN ROTARY OF PENSACOLA. SHE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF HIGHER EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, THE GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE, THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION; AND
- WHEREAS,** AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT BENSE'S VISION, DRIVE, HARD WORK AND LEADERSHIP, THE UWF ARGOS KICKED OFF THEIR FIRST FOOTBALL SEASON IN THE BLUE WAHOOS STADIUM ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2016, WITHIN A SEA OF BLUE AND GREEN, UWF STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITNESSED HISTORY IN THE MAKING; AND
- WHEREAS,** UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PRESIDENT BENSE, MAJOR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AND UWF'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WILL OFFICIALLY KICK OFF WITH TWO THIRDS OF THE GOAL ALREADY MET; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN RECOGNITION OF HER ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS, PRESIDENT BENSE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS AND HONORS, INCLUDING INDUCTION INTO THE ORDER ISABELLA DE CATHOLICA BY KING JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN, THE HARRINGTON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, THE LIBERY BELL AWARD FROM THE PENSACOLA CHAPTER OF FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE; AND
- WHEREAS,** PRESIDENT BENSE WAS RECOGNIZED AS EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR FROM THE PENSACOLA BUSINESS JOURNAL, WOMAN OF THE YEAR FROM THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR FROM THE PENSACOLA SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND NUMBER ONE IN THE 2012 PENSACOLA POWER LIST FROM THE INDEPENDENT NEWS; AND

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA, MEETING THIS DAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016, HEREBY EXTENDS ITS UTMOST APPRECIATION TO JUDITH A. BENSE FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE AND HEARTFELT BEST WISHES FOR MUCH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS TO HER AS SHE EMBARKS UPON THE NEXT CHAPTER OF HER LIFE; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED** THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONFERS UPON JUDITH A, BENSE THE TITLE, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA, WITH ALL THE PRIVILEGES PERTAINING THERETO, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017.

**LEWIS BEAR, JR., CHAIR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**

**MORT O'SULLIVAN, VICE CHAIR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**