

September 23, 2016

Robert Luke
President Sear Committee
Florida Gulf Coast University

Dear Dr. Luke:

I am interested in being considered for the position of President at Florida Gulf Coast University. I have attached a copy of my curriculum vitae and I will be happy to forward any additional information required for your search process.

My administration experience includes service as Director of a Biological Station and as Department Chair at Murray State University, Kentucky, and as Dean of the College of Sciences and Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs and Interim Chancellor at the University of New Orleans and Provost at Auburn University at Montgomery.

I have been involved in curriculum and program development and fundraising since my days as a field station director. In this position, I helped to establish a state-supported Center for Reservoir Research which is still in operation, developed summer educational and research programs in collaboration with other universities in the region, and secured funding for station operations. As department chair, I helped to transition the department from primarily a teaching unit to one that valued both teaching and research. I also assisted in the development of several academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate level, and in acquiring extramural funding for equipment and facility renovation.

From 1992 to 2008, I was privileged to play a role, as Dean, in the development of a fine College of Sciences at the University of New Orleans. In that position, I gained considerable experience in the development, implementation and evaluation of academic and research programs, fiscal management, faculty development and evaluation, and fund raising. In addition, I was involved in the development of a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education and two very successful institutes (Advanced Materials Research Institute and Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences). In total, these institutions have brought in over sixty-four million dollars to the University. Also, I have worked with faculty to develop both undergraduate and Ph.D. programs and to reestablish academic programs and research after Hurricane Katrina.

After Hurricane Katrina, UNO experienced a drastic decrease in student enrollment from 17,800 to about 4,700 students. When I left, UNO had just under 10,000 students and this rebound occurred primarily because of intense recruitment and retention efforts. Admissions, university retention, and student financial aid reported directly to me and we were actively engaged in increasing our student numbers. Our diverse student population included many first generation college students and we enhanced programs to ensure that they had the support needed to succeed at UNO. International studies and distance learning, as well as student affairs, answered to my office and we were all engaged in increasing educational opportunities and student life at our institution.

In August 2008, I accepted the position of Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs at the University of New Orleans. After a national search I was appointed Provost and in this capacity I had the opportunity to participate at a much broader level in the operation of the University. My duties included oversight of the daily operation of academic and student affairs, development of centers and institutes, and cooperative agreements at the national and international levels. Other areas I administered were faculty promotion and tenure, sabbaticals, courses and curriculum, enrollment

management, new academic program development, campus safety, university budgets, liaison with SACS, and interactions with our management boards. I work closely with five academic deans, the dean of the library, and the dean of student affairs. I have experience in institutional strategic planning and with SACS, ABET and AACSB accreditation.

In September 2010, the Chancellor resigned and I was appointed acting Chancellor in addition to my duties as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs. A national search for a new Chancellor was initiated by our management board, the LSU Board of Supervisors. However, the search was cancelled at mid-year because a proposal was put forth to move UNO from the LSU System to the University of Louisiana System. This proposal won legislative approval in June 2011. Another national search was then initiated in September 2011 by the University of Louisiana System and I continued as Interim Chancellor, but appointed an Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

In August 2012, I left the University of New Orleans to become Provost at Auburn University at Montgomery. This institution has provided me with the opportunity to help develop and reorganize academics and budgeting in departments and colleges. I have been actively engaged in recruitment and retention of students, development and review of academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, faculty development, development of research opportunities for faculty and students, online teaching and enhancement of faculty research opportunities. The Deans of five colleges, Dean of the Library, the Student Success Center, Center for Learning and Teaching, Chief Information Officer, Office of Global Initiatives, Registrar's Office, Office of Enrollment Management, Dean of the Confucius Institute, Tutoring Center, Honors Program, two Associate Provosts, and Institutional Effectiveness, report to my office.

In conclusion, I am seeking a university that wants to grow and develop new programs, expand its outreach, student recruitment and retention, and establish new opportunities to support scholarly endeavors and academic development. I think Florida Gulf Coast University is such an institution.

Therefore, I would appreciate your consideration of my application. Again, if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joe M. King