Resolution 2017-2018-15 In Honor of John C. Hitt, president of the University of Central Florida

Whereas, John C. Hitt became the fourth president of the University of Central Florida on March 1, 1992, and has led UCF to become a major metropolitan research university of global impact and a great success story in higher education; and

Whereas, the enrollment of UCF during President Hitt's tenure has increased significantly to more than 66,000 students while the quality of academic programs, faculty, and students has increased dramatically; and

Whereas, President Hitt's drive to establish UCF as America's Leading Partnership University resulted in many collaborations to advance progress and prosperity in Central Florida, including the UCF College of Medicine and the Medical City at Lake Nona, Direct Connect to UCF, the Florida High Tech Corridor, the Central Florida Research Park, and UCF Downtown; and

Whereas, President Hitt has propelled UCF to become the nation's leader in the overall conferring of degrees and he has awarded more degrees within the State University System of Florida than any other president in state history; and

Whereas, President Hitt's years at UCF coincide with the completion of a 45,000-seat football stadium and a 10,000-seat arena, the graduation of UCF sports to NCAA Division I, and a leading academic success rate of student-athletes among national public universities; and

Whereas, President Hitt has helped UCF gain recognition as a 21st-century model for providing a high-value education that is accessible, affordable, and life changing; and

Whereas, President Hitt has championed diversity and inclusion while helping to transform countless lives and livelihoods through the power of higher education; and

Whereas, President Hitt over these past 26 years has inspired faculty, staff, students, and the community to dream big and to reach for the stars; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate expresses its deepest appreciation to President Hitt for an extraordinary tenure and for his vision, innovation, inspiration, and leadership that will positively influence the future of UCF and our Orlando city-state for generations to come.