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Take a look at the Freedom Run 5k!

Terry Mohajir heads to Central Florida as UCF's athletic director A-State starts search for new AD, Zvosec named interim AD

KRISHNAN COLLINS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Former A-State Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Terry Mohajir was appointed to the University of Central Florida as vice president and director of athletics Tuesday.

Mohajir's salary at UCF will start with a base salary of \$795,000 and that will increase to \$825,000 in year two. In year three his salary will jump to \$850,000 before hitting \$900,000 in year four and \$950,000 in year five.

UCF is also paying the full \$500,000 buyout from Mohajir's contract at A-State. Mohajir's offer at UCF also includes up to \$200,000 worth of annual incentive compensation for, "achieving academic, athletic and financial performance goals determined by the President."

The Knights' press release announcing the hiring of Mohajir said the new UCF AD is already at the university full time and he will start meeting with coaches, staff and student athletes this week.

"Terry is a high-energy leader who has demonstrated success in raising a school's national profile by hiring high-quality coaches and developing outstanding facilities that



Former A-State Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Terry Mohajir was hired by UCF as the Knight's vice president and athletic director Tuesday. Mohajir will look to hire a new head football coach at UCF as he recently did at A-State with the hiring of Butch Jones.

enhance the experiences of student-athletes, fans and donors," UCF President Alexander N. Cartwright said in the release. "Most importantly, he cares deeply about student-athletes' success in competition, in the classroom and after they graduate."

Mohajir's offer from UCF also includes the reimbursement of household moving expenses as part of UCF Athletics Association policy along with a monthly car stipend.

As Mohajir recently hired Butch Jones, the new head

football coach at A-State, hiring a new football coach in Orlando will be one of the first jobs he has to complete as UCF AD.

The Knights' previous athletic director Danny White and head football coach Josh Heupel both took the same jobs respectively at the University of Tennessee.

Meanwhile, A-State has now started the search for a new athletic director.

"The search to find a new Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics began (Monday)," A-State Chancellor Dr. Kelly Dampousse said

in an A-State athletics news release. "We are fortunate that Terry Mohajir has built a great athletics program, and we anticipate that our position will attract the attention of outstanding candidates."

In the meantime, A-State Deputy Director of Athletics Rich Zvosec has been named A-State's interim AD. Before being named interim AD, Zvosec was in his seventh year as A-State's deputy director of athletics.

Under Mohajir, A-State won 25 conference championships

PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

including four Sun Belt Conference titles in football and the Red Wolves won conference championships in 12 different sports.

During Mohajir's reign, many of A-State's facilities were renovated or newly constructed across many sports including a new \$25 million press box and a \$29 million operations facility in the north end zone of Centennial Bank Stadium.

Under Mohajir's leadership, A-State's athletic budget reached a school record \$43.1 million. A-State actually took on

UCF in the 2016 Cure Bowl as the Red Wolves took down the Knights 31-13. A-State was the last team to beat UCF before the Knights went on an incredible undefeated run from the 2017 season to the 2019 Fiesta Bowl.

In terms of size, UCF stands tall over A-State as the Orlando based university boasted a student enrollment of 71,948 in the fall 2020 semester. Of those 71,948 students, 6,646 students were enrolled online and 61,456 were undergraduates.

A-State's student enrollment stood at 13,891 in the fall 2020 semester. A-State's online enrollment in the fall reached 4,638 students.

A relatively new school, UCF's first classes began in October 1968 while A-State was founded April 1, 1909 and classes began Oct. 3, 1910.

Mohajir graduated from A-State with a degree in sports management in 1993 and was a safety on A-State's football team before earning his master's degree in sports management at Kansas.

Mohajir returned to his alma mater and was an energetic leader at A-State who led the Red Wolves to new heights across many sports and gave A-State a platform to build on for years to come.

SGA continues work on new resolutions and sustainability plan

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Student Government Association President Rashad Kirksey remains busy tackling issues like textbook costs and sustainability, among others, as his time in office slowly starts to wind down.

Kirksey has recently been in talks with the campus bookstore about lowering textbook costs.

He said lowering textbook costs has always been an initiative of SGA and even though it wasn't on his original platform, after hearing many concerns, especially during the pandemic, he wanted to work on the issue to help students in the future.

Kirksey met with Dr. Martha Spack, Dr. Russ Hannah, Dr. Craig Johnson and the bookstore to discuss ways to go about lowering textbook costs.

"Several alternatives have been presented that could exponentially lower prices," Kirksey said. "Whether that be through more advertising of the price matching system within our own textbook store

or several other programs that are being highlighted."

Kirksey mentioned Dr. Gina Hogue is piloting new software that could lower textbook prices for students as well.

In terms of other resolutions, during SGA's Feb. 2 meeting, Sen. Reed Middleton read a resolution to name the red wolf statue that sits in the middle of Aggie Road, "Tiago." Tiago means "may God protect" in Spanish.

The statue was a gift from A-State's campus in Queretaro, Mexico.

"I think it's important that we honor that significance of us having that statue," Kirksey said. "And also lay to rest the unknown of what that name will be for students. I think it's significant and it's important that we now do this with all of this going on. This signifies our collaborations with A-State Mexico, we're both struggling campuses as far as the pandemic goes. Even through it all we can still work together and get things done."

The process of getting the statue renamed could take a couple of months. Since the

resolution was presented at the Feb. 2 meeting, it can be voted on at SGA's Feb. 16 meeting.

"(Dr. Bill Smith) is eager to get this moving forward," Kirksey said. "We could probably hopefully see the official renaming of this wolf statue definitely sometime in the next month or two or definitely before the semester ends."

Sen. Ellie Mayberry read a resolution Feb. 2 to bring Swipe Out Hunger to A-State. This would allow students to donate meal block swipes and Flex Dollars.

SGA and Volunteer A-State are currently working on a mid-semester meal block drive that would act as a sort of test or practice run for the Swipe Out Hunger program.

Kirksey said resolutions for A-State's pet policy and more meal plan variety, both on Kirksey's original platform, should be presented soon. These resolutions could be presented as soon as SGA's Feb. 16 meeting.



CONTINUED:
SGA, 4A

PHOTO COURTESY OF RYANNE O'DONNELL
SGA President Rashad Kirksey (left) and Vice President Blake Moore, along with the rest of A-State's SGA are still working on resolutions regarding sustainability, meal plans, pet policies and more.