

The UAB recommends the following candidates for replacing vacated positions on the UAB.

1. Annie Orlando was our number one pick for the board for many reasons. Annie is always prepared for the meetings. She reads all the materials and has informed perspectives on each item. It was pointed out that at times she can be divisive, but I think that member David Denslow summarized it best when he said, "Annie annoys the devil out of me at least three times a night. On a scale of 0-5 I give her a 10." She also has two years of experience on the UAB and this institutional knowledge should not be lost, especially since nearly half our members are up for replacement. It was pointed out by our other two female members that for diversity's sake, Annie should be chosen because if she isn't, only one female will be on the board because Sandy Campbell will be leaving and all other replacement applicants are male. Finally, Annie also qualifies for the slot of large business with 25 or more employees which was vacated by Robert Walpole.

The UAB held a separate vote to recommend Annie as our number one choice for the UAB. It unanimously passed 5-0 with Annie abstaining due to the conflict of interest that her nomination was the one being voted upon.

Our second vote recommended our number two and three choice, with an alternate choice, which follows below. This vote passed 4-1 with member Mary Alford voting against because she felt we should have included other alternates that received at least one supporter on the board and Annie Orlando abstaining due to the conflict of interest that she was in the pool of applicants.

2. Wes Wheeler was our second choice to become a board member. His wealth of experience as a lawyer, environmental planner and volunteerism on various boards made him a strong choice. His volunteerism ranged from gravedigger to a solar organizer for the Alachua County Solar Cooperative to Volunteer for the Gainesville Veterans for Peace.
3. Our third choice for the last position on the board was Jason Gonos. Jason attended our meeting and answered many questions from the board. Jason has extreme experience in the energy field. He is one of the founders of Power Production Management, Inc. The company builds solar power systems. They've deployed over 5 megawatts of power throughout the Southeast. Each year the University of Florida awards the top 100 fastest growing companies led or owned by a Florida Gator alumnus. His company came in 4th out of the 100 with an astounding growth rate over the last three years of 108.71%. He also has prior GRU energy related experience by serving on the UAB's predecessor, the Energy Advisory Committee.

Alternate Choice

Our alternate choice was Jim Gross. Member Mary Alford knows him well and gave a strong recommendation. He's currently the Executive Director of Florida Defenders of the Environment. He has a wealth of experience in water management and geology. However, we already have a water expert on our board, Mary Alford.