

February 16, 2023

**Subject:** Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Rationale:** Section 5.10 of the Board of Trustees Operating Procedures provides that detailed minutes should be kept for any Board or Committee meeting. Those minutes should include a record of votes cast and attendance.

**Recommendation:** Approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes for:

- December 8, 2023

**Attachments:** Yes, copies of the minutes are attached.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY  
**Board of Trustees**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 8, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll. The following trustees were present, establishing a quorum: Bell, Cavazos, Cliatt, Harper, Lawson, Moore, Perry, Reed, Stone, and Washington.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Next, Chair Lawson recognized University Trustee and Student Government President Zachary Bell for his report. Trustee Bell shared updates regarding the Student Government Association (SGA), Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.

- Executive Branch
  - Heavy programming centered around community service and student relief
  - STRIKE platforms and initiatives are underway
  - Rebranding FAMU SGA social media platforms
- Legislative Branch
  - The Student Senate welcomed twelve new senators
  - They engaged in joint initiatives and legislation with the FSU Student Senate
  - Filmed the very first episode of the L-Report
- Judicial Branch
  - Confirmed all Associate Justices of the Student Supreme Court
  - Hosted a joint event with Parking Services due to the high number of parking citations
  - Reviewing the Student Body documents for technical errors and cohesion

The SGA hosted a Post-Election Forum, encouraged students to take advantage of the food pantry, hosted a “Taste of Home” meal giveaway for Thanksgiving, had a canned food drive, and co-hosted the “Home for the Holidays” HBCU Shuttle Bus service which took students to Broward County, Orlando, and Atlanta. The three hundred slots for the service were sold out in four days.

Trustee Bell closed by sharing that the SGA’s Spring initiatives include:

- Forming a partnership with Lyft to provide discount rides for students
- Relaunching the State of the Black Student Address
- Creating a campus environmental sustainability officer within SGA, and
- Working with IT to increase student engagement with the FAMU APP.

**CLOSED SESSIONS FOR CYBER SECURITY AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Chair Lawson stated that there were two (2) closed sessions - one for cyber security and another for collective bargaining. Vice President Joseph Maleszewski provided instructions for the closed session

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regarding cyber security. The following individuals were included in that session: The Board of Trustees, President Robinson, Vice President for Audit Joe Maleszewski, Chief Information Officer Robert Seniors, Chief Operating Officer Edington, General Counsel Wallace, Attorneys Shira Thomas and David Self, Chief Risk Officer Deidre Melton, Senior Auditor William Thompson, Presidio Account Manager Emily Fares Presidio, Principal Security Consultant Daniel Presidio, CISCO Account Manager Peter Butler and Chief Information Security Officer Arthur Billows.

Vice President Denise Wallace provided instructions regarding the closed session on collective bargaining. She invited the following individuals to participate in the closed session: the Board of Trustees, President Robinson, Chief Operating Officer Edington, Provost Allyson Watson, Attorney Robert Larkin, Attorney Denise Wallace, Attorney Shira Thomas, Attorney Coates, Attorney McKenzie, Dr. Latrecha Scott, Nichole Murray, Herbert Bailey, Dean Sarah Price, and DRS Superintendent Michael Johnson.

The Board then moved into its closed sessions.

The closed sessions concluded, and the Board proceeded with its open session.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Chair Lawson recognized Mr. Curtis Johnson, the president of the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association and Mr. Selvin Cobb, President of the Rattler Boosters, for updates regarding their respective organizations.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robinson provided an update on the University and its achievements. He highlighted an update on his goals, key performance indicators, organizational effectiveness and accreditation updates, success spotlight and points of pride. He shared that the University aspires to become a leader in performance outcomes, reach the top one hundred National Public Universities, reach the top ten for social mobility, become a Research One (1) Carnegie Research University and become a top talent producer in STEM, health, and business.

President Robinson shared that the University has made considerable progress with the Performance Based Funding Metrics outcomes over the past five years. He said that the cost of attendance decreased during this period from over \$12,000 to -\$630. That was possible through CARES Act funding.

The University is working toward doubling the graduation rate over the next five years, a goal that is captured in the Boldly Striking Strategic Plan. The average grade point average (GPA) for students admitted for Fall 2023 is between 4.03 and 4.05.

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President Robinson shared that in November Dr. Maurice Edington assumed the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He is second in command and will provide direct oversight of university leadership to implement strategies and systems that improve the quality and efficiency of services and operations. Reporting to COO Edington are the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Research, the Vice President for Strategic Planning Analysis and Institutional Effectiveness and the Director of Communications who has a dual reporting. The positions reporting the President Robinson include the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Vice President for Audit, the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer, the Vice President for University Advancement, the Vice President for Legal Affairs, the Vice President for Athletics, the Vice President for Information Technology, the Director of Communications, the Director of Government Relations, and the Chief of Staff.

The University is launching a search for the vice president for University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation. He said that Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud will continue to serve in that role until the new vice president is identified.

The University is actively engaging in preparing its fifth-year accreditation report which will be submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission of Colleges in March 2023. Dr. Sundra Kincey is leading that effort. In accordance with Senate Bill 744, FAMU must seek and obtain accreditation from another accrediting agency associated and identified by the Board of Governors.

*President Robinson shared a video which highlighted University events.*

### **FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Cavazos for an update regarding the Faculty Senate. Trustee Cavazos highlighted the accomplishments of faculty members in her “Faculty Spotlight Series. She said that the goal is to feature diverse faculty, whose teaching, research and service define, inspire, and inform excellence.

- Dr. Lambert Kanga: Entomology Center for Biological Control College of Agricultural and Food Sciences. He secured 1.12M in extramural funds for academic research and extension projects, published five peer-reviewed articles in high impact and prestigious journals, gave presentations and organized five symposia at national and international professional meetings.
- Dr. Steven Morey received a 5-year \$750K award as part of a \$9M consortium.
- Dr. Muhammad Haseeb: Entomology/Center for Biological Control College of Agricultural and Food Sciences secured \$1.32M in extramural funds for academic research and extension projects, published six (6) peer reviewed papers in high impact and prestigious journals, gave sixteen presentations and organized five symposia at national and international professional meetings.
- Dr. Darius, Young, associate, Professor of History, presented at the National Humanities Alliance Conference in Los Angeles, California, where he served on a panel entitled, Reconstructing the Humanities at historically Black Colleges and Universities.

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- Dr. Hassan Huang: Assistant Professor School of Journalism and Graphic Communication published an article entitled “*Third-and-first-person Effects of COVID News in HBCU Students’ Risk Perception and Behavioral Intention: Social Desirability, Social Distance, and Social Identity*” in Health Communication, a Q1 (top 25%) ranked journal.
- Professor Maritza Reyes: FAMU College of Law led the opening session of the 2022 Inaugural Graciela Olivarez Latinas in the legal Academic Workshop, sponsored by Stanford law School.
- Dr. Yolanda Jones, Director of the FAMU College of Law Library, is the incoming chair of the Black Law Librarian Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Committee Chair*

Trustee Washington reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended approval of the following items: tenure upon appointment for Dean Myra Lowe of the School of Journalism, the Institutes and Centers 2022 annual report, the Statement of Free Expression, and requests for leave without pay for Professors Andrew Jones and Nandi Riley. The committee also heard updates on Veterans Affairs, hazing prevention, campus safety and the updated academic advising model.

**Audit and Compliance Committee**

*Trustee Reed, Committee Member*

Trustee Reed reported that the Committee approved the Division of Audit Annual Audit Work Plan Update and the Division of Audit Charter Update. Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer Rica Calhoun presented an office update report and VP Maleszewski and Deidre Melton presented informational items and an office update.

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Committee Chair*

Trustee Moore shared that the Committee recommended the following for approval: the contract for the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative Education Campaign, the Trane contract, the videoboard package acquisition, and property acquisition. The Committee also has seven follow-ups.

**Direct Support Organizations Committee**

*Trustee Stone, Committee Member*

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Trustee Stone shared that the DSO Committee recommended approval of the FAMU Foundation Board members, election of new Foundation Board officers, a Foundation operating budget amendment increasing University support for Athletics and the Marching 100, and an amendment to BOT Policy 2.101. The Committee also heard updates from the DSO's.

**Governance**

*Trustee Moore, Committee Vice Chair*

Trustee Moore reported that the Committee recommended approval of President Robinson's 2023 employment agreement, a 17.5% bonus and a 3.5% base salary increase. The Committee also recommended approval of revisions to the Board of Trustees Operating Procedures, naming the General Counsel as the Board's parliamentarian, and requiring a supermajority vote if the vice chair seeks reelection past a second term. Mrs. McBeth also provided a Government Relations update.

**Special Committee on Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Committee Chair*

Chair Lawson shared that the committee recommend approval of the new athletic Director's employment agreement. Interim Director Michael Smith presented members of the volleyball and football coaching staff for their stellar performance. Student athletes Xavier Smith and Isaiah Land provided comments. The Committee heard updates regarding the Athletics budget and the Athletics Action Plan.

**Special Committee of the College of Law**

*Otis Cliatt, Committee Chair*

Trustee Cliatt recounted that Dean Keller gave a presentation regarding recruitment and retention and discussed the latest Bar examination results.

**Strategic Planning/Performance Measures Committee**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Committee Chair*

Trustee Harper said that the Committee heard an update on the University's Strategic Plan. Dr. McMurray presented the communication plan, implementation plan, timeline, key initiatives for year-one, next steps to communicate the strategic plan, finalize unit strategic plans, finalize outstanding metrics and budget, and begin the mid-year review. The committee also discussed alignment to Board committees for each strategic priority goal.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Lawson shared that two items would be removed from the Consent Agenda: the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression and property acquisition. Chair Lawson reviewed the Consent Agenda with the Board. Trustee Moore moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Perry seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**Board of Trustees Minutes (BT)**

BT1 October 6, 2022

BT2 October 27, 2022

**Academic and Student Affairs (ASA)**

ASA1 Tenure Upon Appointment – Dean Mira Lowe

ASA2 Institutes and Centers Annual Report

~~ASA3 State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression~~

ASA4 Leave Without Pay

- Professor Andrew Jones
- Professor Nandi Riley

**Audit and Compliance Committee (AACC)**

AACC1 Division of Audit Annual Audit Work Plan Update

AACC2 Division of Audit – Charter Update

**Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee (BFF)**

BFF1 Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative Education Campaign

BFF2 Trane Contract

~~BFF3 Property Acquisition~~

BFF4 Videoboard Package Acquisition

**Direct Support Organizations Committee (DSO)**

DSO1 I. Approval of DSO Board Members

A. FAMU Foundation

Elected Board Officers:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

B. Traditional Foundation Board Members

II. 2022-2023 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment

III. Amendment of BOT Policy 2018-01, Direct Support Organizations

**Governance Committee (G)**

G1 President Robinson’s Employment Contract

G2 President Robinson’s Bonus

G3 Revisions to the Board of Trustees’ Operating Procedures

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**Special Committee on Athletics (SCA)**

SCA Employment Agreement for Tiffani-Dawn Sykes

Next, Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Reed to address the motion regarding collective bargaining. Trustee Reed moved that the Board ratify the FAMU and UFF-DRS Chapter tentative agreements regarding Article 23 and appendix F, amendments to Articles 1 – 6, 8 – 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20, which collectively represents the full book of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between FAMU BOT and the UFF-DRS and authorize the President to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board, as the public employer. Trustee Moore seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Attorney David Self stated that the property acquisition action item was removed from the agenda because of the significance of the action, which is consistent with the Board's Operating Procedures. He said that it was also necessary because of the title insurance. Attorney Self read the resolution into the record. Trustee Perry moved the adoption of the resolution. Trustee Moore seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The last action item was consideration of the State University System of Florida Statement of Free Expression. Trustee Cavazos offered the motion to approve. Trustee Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed, with a unanimous vote. Trustee Cavazos noted that she was voting as a trustee and not as a Faculty Senator.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned.