

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

Athletics Committee Minutes
Kelvin Lawson, Chair
February 15, 2023

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. The Executive Assistant to the VP/AD Marquel Broussard called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Ann Marie Cavazos, Trustee Otis Cliatt, and Chair Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the December 7, 2022, minutes. Trustee Cavazos moved approval of the minutes, Trustee Cliatt provided the second, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Nichole Murray, University Budget Director, deferred the Athletics budget update to Michael Smith, AVP for Athletics Administration and Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Smith shared that the numbers in the athletics budget are still trending in the right direction as athletics continue to move forward with a positive fund balance.

Chair Lawson made mention that the internal budget review was completed for the month as well as the budget review with BOG. He announced that there is a new audit and compliance chair, Mr. Aubrey Edge out of Jacksonville. He shared that this is year five that athletics has had a balanced budget given all the issues with COVID and a number of other things.

Deidre Melton provided an overall update on the Athletics Action Plan. She shared that there has been significant progress since last month. Modifications were made but the plan is still on track to be over 90 % completed by the end of the fiscal year. She said 5 out of 17 strategies are complete, 11 out of 17 are on track for completion and 1 out of 17 is behind schedule but will be back on track by the end of February. She went through some highlights of the strategies and things accomplished over the past month. She announced that 6 of the 7 athletics compliance positions have been filled and they are working to fill the compliance eligibility position.

AD Sykes provided department updates. She announced the changes that have occurred on the athletics staff which include Michael Smith who accepted the role of Assistant Vice President for Athletics Administration and Strategic Initiatives in addition to adding Marquel Broussard, Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Director of Athletics and Brittney Johnson, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Compliance/Senior Woman Administrator. AD Sykes also shared that two new Head Coaches were hired; Camise Patterson, Softball and Garfield Ellenwood, Cross Country and Track & Field. She stated that her focus within the first 30 days has been visibility and engagement. AD Sykes has hit the ground running on January 4th and has since had the opportunity to be engaged with student-athletes, alumni and the community. She highlighted many different engagement settings which allowed her to connect with student-athletes, alumni in different states and FAMU Developmental Research School. AD Sykes highlighted Student-Athletes from various sports on earning SWAC honors. She also shared that Track & Field have recorded over 50 Top-3 finishes this season. AD Sykes expressed her appreciation to the committees she currently serve on for all that they have done and continue to do to support athletics and our student-athletes at FAMU.

In closing, she recognized the late great Ken Riley, FAMU Alumnus who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.