



**Board of Trustees
Governance Committee Minutes
December 7, 2023**

Trustee Reed called the Governance Committee to order, and the following committee members were in attendance and established a quorum: Trustees Natlie Figgers, Kelvin Lawson, Belvin Perry, Craig Reed, and Michael White. Trustees John Crossman and Kenny Stone were not in attendance due to previous commitments. The committee approved the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes.

Next, Deputy General Counsel Iris Elijah presented a recommendation to amend the Board's Operating procedures changing the Direct Support Organizations/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee from a special committee to a standing committee. The recommendation also included technical changes. Trustee Lawson clarified that Chair Harper would still have the authority to appoint ad hoc/special committees. In response to a question regarding committee purview, Attorney Elijah opined that the overall responsibility for academic advising for athletics would fall under the DSO/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, but the topic could be discussed in the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Perry moved approval of the motion. It was seconded by Trustee Lawson and was approved unanimously.

The Committee also received an update regarding the University's legislative engagement strategy and the role of trustees from Danielle McBeth, Director of Government Relation. She stated that the legislative engagement strategy is rooted in the calendar of events, with the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) being approved in September 2023, followed by meetings with legislators. She shared that the Florida legislative session will convene January 9, 2024 and that Congress will convene its second session in January 2024. FAMU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 20, 2024. The 2025-2026 LBR will be due in July, 2024.

Director McBeth reported that the base of the University's support for any legislative and policy initiatives resides in those who represent the University - the Leon County Congressional delegation includes U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator Rick Scott, and Congressman Neil Dunn. The University seeks support for issues that have an impact on higher education at the federal level. The engagement ranges from support for programmatic funding allocations for

federal grant opportunities, higher education policy revisions, or regulations that might be of great assistance to the University.

On the State level the base of support is the Leon County legislative delegation, with Senator Corey Simon, Representative Alison Tant, Representative Jason Shove, and Representative Gallop Franklin. The committees that Director McBeth primarily works with are the House Education Policy Committee, House Appropriations Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and their respective Senate counterparts.

The Trustees indicated that they should be involved in the process and help to move the University's agenda forward by advocating for FAMU. Director McBeth highlighted that she collaborates with the FAMU National Alumni Association to plan FAMU Day at the Capitol. Chair Harper confirmed that she is committed to continuing legislative engagement during every board meeting.

Chair Harper reiterated the Committee's next steps:

- providing a Who's Who roster to trustees based on the relevance of their role and prior advocacy;
- developing talking points regarding the LBR;
- developing a more detailed session calendar, indicating what's happening during the session week by week;
- a call to action for each trustee to send their respective contacts and extend their respective networks within and outside of the State of Florida
- send a digital copy of the LBR to the Board of Trustees
- consider staffing and other types of resources for Government Relations; and
- consider an earlier date for the Board's Legislative Budget Request workshop.

Director McBeth closed by thanking the Governor and the House and Senate leadership for supporting the University.