

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Kristin Harper, Chair*

Chair Harper called the meeting to order. Trustees Brown, Cliatt, Crossman, Figgers, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, Mondelus, Perry, Stone, Washington, and White established a quorum. Trustee Reed did not join the meeting due to a prior commitment.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals presented comments to the Board of Trustees:

- State Representative Gallop Franklin
- State Senator Bobby Powell
- Jaylin Hankerson-Strappy

**FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW AND PUBLIC RECORDS PRESENTATION**

Attorney Pat Gleason, who serves as special counsel for open government, and is the foremost expert regarding the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law, shared her expertise with the Board of Trustees. She explained the application of the laws and answered questions from the Board.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, President*

President Robinson highlighted several updates and achievements at FAMU. He shared that since the last Board meeting he had received the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award and that the Florida Board of Governors approved his contract extension. FAMU held its first Data Privacy Awareness Week and introduced James Colzie, III, as the new head football coach. Attorney Cecil Howard was appointed interim Dean of the College of Law, and the University secured a \$97.5 million federal loan for a new student residence hall. FAMU was recognized as a Collegiate Purple Star Campus by the Florida Department of Education and celebrated the naming of its softball field after legendary coach Veronica Wiggins. The U.S. Department of Energy selected FAMU as one of the inaugural winners of the HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize Partnerships. First Lady Sharon Robinson was also honored with a Pinnacle Award during Women's History Month.

President Robinson further highlighted the University's achievements and plans. He expressed gratitude for the team's efforts in the university's recognition as a national institution of learning. The Board of Trustees discussed the University's progress and achievements, including its ranking as the third highest public HPCI in the US News and World Report rankings and its position as a top producer of STEM, health, and business professionals. The Board also set forth their goals for 2023-2024, emphasizing the importance of attaining Carnegie Research One status and

maintaining its position as a top producer of STEM, health, and business professionals. President Robinson also touched on the University's funding goal, research expenditures, and the progress made so far. The discussion also focused on the university's partnerships with Parker Dewey and Apple, the selection of two associate professors as inaugural professors for community outreach engagement and research, and the recognition of twenty-one exemplary employees. The aim for 2024 is to maintain the FAMU's ranking among the top one hundred universities and to focus on student success, while improving operation efficiency.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Board Chair*

Chair Harper congratulated the School of Nursing on its high licensure passage rate and congratulated newly confirmed trustee, Michael White. She also recognized Trustee Londe Mondelus for her service and shared highlights from the recent Board of Governors meeting. Chair Harper acknowledged the active involvement of Board members during the legislative session and congratulated the Athletics Department on its recent achievements. She announced the formation of a special committee on Athletics, with Trustee Clatt as its chair, to ensure a sustainable, profitable athletics enterprise. Chair Harper shared that the next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for March 26-27 in Gainesville, with the next in-person Board of Trustees meeting set for May 29, 2024 in Tampa.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT:**

*Trustee Londe Mondelus, Student Government President*

Trustee Mondelus spoke about the achievements, challenges, and plans of FAMU. She highlighted the university's consistent ranking as the top public HBCU and its athletic successes. She also pointed out issues such as customer service, infrastructure, access to mental health, campus safety, student health and wellness, academic advising and development, and parking. Trustees requested responses to the issues noted by Trustee Mondelus.

### **FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

*Trustee Jamal Brown, Faculty Senate President*

Trustee Brown highlighted the need for a centralized database of books written by alumni and professors, and the significance of representation at events such as FAMU Day at the Capitol. He also discussed the need for customer service training and campus safety improvements. He shared information regarding the attendance of Rattlers and the athletic teams at the Governor's Black History Month Reception held at the Governor's Mansion. Trustee Brown stated that the faculty is excited about the great things that are going on with FAMU, including research opportunities and attendance at professional meetings.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Committee Chair*

Trustee Washington reported that the Committee recommended approval of recipients of Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave. It also heard updates on enrollment, financial aid, hazing prevention, advisement, and performance funding metrics.

**Audit and Compliance Committee**

*Michael White, Committee Chair*

Trustee White shared that the Audit and Compliance Committee recommended approval of University Regulation 1.022, Title IX, Formal Hearing Process. Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer Calhoun provided an update. VP Maleszewski and AVP Melton provided several informational items including the audit investigative follow-up, external audit updates, the standards updates, the ERM updates and the Division of Audit update.

**Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee**

*Trustee White, Committee Member*

Trustee White stated that the Committee recommended approval of the amendment to FY 2023-2024 Operating Budget Carry Forward for Activity and Service Fees, contract authority for the Howard Hall renovation project, contract amendments for FAMU construction services fee, the contract authority for the Howard Hall renovation program, and contract amendments for RAM Construction.

**Direct Support Organizations/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee**

*Trustee Deveron Gibbons, Committee Chair*

The DSO Committee chair, Trustee Gibbons reported that the Committee recommended approval of the FAMU Foundation Bylaws Amendment and the amendment to the 2023-2024 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment in the amount of \$700,000 for Athletics Department Funding. The Committee also heard updates from University Advancement, the Direct Support Organizations, and the Athletics Department.

**Governance Committee**

*Trustee Kenny Stone, Committee Chair*

Committee chair Stone stated that the Governance Committee considered a motion to amend the Operating Procedures removing Intercollegiate Athletics from the Direct Support Organizations Committee. That motion failed for lack of a second. Following that discussion, Chair Harper shared that she plans to appoint a special committee for Intercollegiate Athletics.

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Next, the committee was provided timelines for the submission of the president’s goals, completion of the president’s evaluation and the board’s self-evaluation. Chair Harper also stated that the Board will address the legislative budget request during its April 17<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting.

**Strategic Planning/Performance Measures Committee**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Committee Chair*

Chair Harper stated that the Committee was provided with highlights from the Year-Two implementation of the 2022 to 2027 Strategic plan, “Boldly Striking.” The strategic priorities include elevating student success outcomes, fostering faculty excellence, and innovating academic programs to address workforce needs elevating FAMU’s rankings and positioning it on a trajectory to become a Carnegie Research One Institution.

The follow ups include sharing specific strategies and metrics currently in place to support the career center, sharing strategies for helping students pursue and engage in interviews. providing metrics that support mental health for students, determining key account meetings to have with corporations and organizations to help engage them in a broader way, and provide the percentage of majors with professional development in their curriculum.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Board of Trustees Minutes (BT)
  - BT1 December 7, 2023
  - BT2 January 16, 2024
  - BT3 February 5, 2024
  
- B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)
  - ASA1 Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave
  
- C. Audit and Compliance Committee (AACC)
  - AACC1 University Regulation 1.022- Title IX and Formal Hearing Process
  
- D. Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee
  - BFF1 FY 2023-2024 Operating Budget-Carryforward for Activity and Service Fees
  - BFF2 Contract Authority
    - 1. Howard Hall Renovation Project Architect/Engineer Services
    - 2. Chemical and Biological Research Center Renovation Project Architect/Engineer Services
    - 3. Polkinghorne Village Floor Installation
  - BFF3 Change Orders
    - 1. RAM Construction for FAMU CASS Promenade Additional Work
    - 2. JRA Architects – 500-Bed Mixed-Use Residence Hall Architect/Engineer Services
    - 3. CHASM Architects – 800-Bed Mixed-Use Apartment Complex

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Architect/Engineer Services

- E. Direct Support Organizations and Athletics Committee (DSO)  
DSO1 Recommended Amendments to FAMU Foundation Bylaws  
DSO2 2023-2024 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment

- ~~F. Governance Committee (GC)  
GC1 Operating Procedures Amendment Committee Update\*~~

Trustee Lawson moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Mondelus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In closing, Trustees emphasized the importance of addressing the following:

- The need for a sustainable financial model for Athletics;
- The need for a sustainability plan for the College of Law;
- Provide the Board with a copy of the College of Law action plan;
- A presentation regarding technology tools the University has invested in;
- A mandatory minimum donation for Boosters;
- A deep dives and changes at the College of Law; and
- An enrollment plan and strategies to improve board scores at the College of Pharmacy.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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*\*The amendment to the Operating Procedures was struck because it was not recommended for approval by the Governance Committee and therefore was not considered for approval by the Board of Trustees on the Consent Agenda.*