

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

**Special Committee on the College of Law
Committee Minutes
October 11, 2023**

The Special Committee on the College of Law met on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. Trustee Otis Cliatt called the meeting to order with the following committee members establishing a quorum: Otis Cliatt, John Crossman, and Kristin Harper. Trustee Figgers did not attend the meeting. Trustee Harper moved approval of the minutes. Trustee Crossman seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Fall 2023 Incoming Cohort Profile

Dean Keller shared that the profile of the incoming cohort reflects significant success in the college's recruitment efforts. A student with a 151 LSAT score, and a 3.52 GPA has an 80% probability of first-time bar passage. The bottom quarter of the class has a 60-70% probability of first-time bar passage. She shared that the college is transforming the incoming cohorts.

Update: Proposal for Excellence

Dean Keller provided a report on the college's proposal for excellence status. She reported that the college spent approximately \$875K on recruitment and retention and another \$120K for teaching assistants. She said that every required course now has a teaching assistant. They were able to do this with the assistance of Title III funding. This year the college has less than a 1% attrition rate which is the first time it has retained most of its students.

Bar Results – July 2023

The committee had a robust discussion regarding the possible root causes of the performance on the bar exam and viable solutions. The committee shared that the college needs to look at teaching methods and faculty bar preparation. Students would also benefit from one-on-one support for tutorial services.

Provost Watson and the Academic Affairs team traveled to the College of Law to converse with faculty. The conversations revealed that the faculty recognized the need for faculty development

around curricular design and pedagogical approaches. Dean Keller and the team are in the process of putting together a 30-60-90 day plan to address these issues.

Provost Watson shared that several SUS law schools use exit interviews that ask probing questions to help gauge the student's mindset and would be helpful as they prepare other students for the bar. Examples of the questions include the following: Where are you planning to practice law? What are your plans after you graduate? What bar preparation material did you use? What was the most helpful? Why did you choose this institution for law school?

Dean Keller stated that there will also be faculty development around assessment to ensure that students have mastered the content being taught. She also shared that a deficiency in one course can be remediated in an upper-level course covering similar content. A deficiency across the transcript shows that a student either wasn't prepared for law school or that law school is not for them.

Beginning with the 2021 cohort, students were required to take an additional two (2) credit hour writing course to address writing deficits. Dean Keller indicated that the College of Law needs a writing center, with sufficient staff to help address students' technical skills and legal writing skills.

The Committee told Dean Keller to look at short-term and long-term fixes to address the bar passage rate.

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