FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IN RE: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BETTYE GRABLE, CHAIR
LUCAS BOYCE
TOREY L. ALSTON
CLEVE WARREN
ROBERT WOODY

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

TIME: COMMENCED AT: 9:00 A.M.
CONCLUDED AT: 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: GRAND BALLROOM
FAMU CAMPUS
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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TRUSTEES ALSO PRESENT:

Spurgeon McWilliams  
Rufus Montgomery  
Kelvin Lawson  
Kimberly Moore  
Karl White  
Belinda Shannon
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Good morning. We are now going to start the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and -- good morning, Doctor Mangum -- and at this time I'd like to ask Ms. Singleton to please call the roll.

MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Grable.
TRUSTEE GRABLE: Here.
MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Alston.
TRUSTEE ALSTON: Here.
MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Boyce.
(NO RESPONSE).
MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Graham.
(NO RESPONSE).
MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Warren.
TRUSTEE WARREN: Here.
MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Woody.
TRUSTEE WOODY: Here.
MS. SINGLETON: Trustee Grable, we have a quorum.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Thank you.

The only action item that we have on the Academic Affairs Committee agenda is the approval of the tenured nominations from the Provost and the
President. And at this time I'll ask Provost David to take the floor.

PROVOST DAVID: Good morning.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Good morning.

PROVOST DAVID: I have the honor of presenting my first raft of tenure -- regular tenure process as opposed to tenure upon appointment, which I had the opportunity to present in March.

The process is essentially the same. A person comes up for tenure, they apply; their department or chair will consider the application; it will be passed through the college committee, if there's a college committee; passed through the dean if there's -- well, it has to go through the dean, and then on to the University Committee which makes a recommendation.

That recommendation is then given to me. I have had the opportunity to consider the recommendations, to also confer with the chair of the University Committee. I made my own independent recommendations to the President. The President and I conferred, and I am very happy to present the folks who are identified in the agenda as candidates for tenure at this time.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. Are there any
questions of the Committee members?

(NO RESPONSE).

TRUSTEE GRABLE: If not, may I have a motion
to recommend approval of the tenure nominations?

TRUSTEE WARREN: So moved.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTGOMERY: It has been moved and
properly seconded. Is there any discussion?

(NO RESPONSE).

TRUSTEE GRABLE: If not, all in favor please
show by a voice vote of aye.

(AFFIRMATIVE INDICATIONS).

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Opposed, the same sign.

(NO RESPONSE).

TRUSTEE GRABLE: The motion carries, and thank
you, Provost David.

PROVOST DAVID: Thank you very much. I am
sure the folks will be very delighted at the
acceptance of tenure.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: I am sure.

At this time Provost David will now provide us
with the Academic Affairs update.

Provost David.

PROVOST DAVID: So I don't really have much in
addition to what I presented to the Committee in
our May 18th, I believe it is, meeting. I would just say that at the last Board of Trustees' meeting there was a request that faculty travel grant reports be posted on the Academic Affairs' website, and that has been done, so feel free to take a look.

We are still -- this is a relatively new program for the travel grants, a relatively new program, so we are still getting all of the systems in place to make sure not just that we receive a report but the kind of content of the report and the quality of the report; so it's going to get better than what you see. Some of them are terse, and some of them are about 40 pages: Here is the paper that I wrote.

But we have had a lot of positive response to the program, and we are looking forward to continuing it in the future.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. And I notice -- did you have any other items in terms of your update?

PROVOST DAVID: I don't have any other items in terms of an update. We do have a moment of recognition.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay.

PROVOST DAVID: And the moment of recognition
is to celebrate a phenomenon that happened here on
our campus which is totally wonderful and exciting,
and I have to say I like to consider myself a
little bit of a hardhearted mama as it were, to
quote the song, but at the graduation when we had
an opportunity to recognize these two extraordinary
women, I actually teared up a little bit because of
the support that they receive from their family and
their friends and all the folks in the auditorium
as they marched around and returned to their seats
after being hooded and receiving their doctorates
in physics.

This is a pretty extraordinary feat to have
two black women earn doctorates in physics, and I
have some statistics. According to the most recent
NSF data, there were 1,900 physics Ph.D.s awarded
in 2013. Of those 1,900 -- sorry, I did say --
1,902 physics Ph.D.s awarded in 2013, 20 percent
were awarded to women and one percent were awarded
to black or African-Americans; so that we had two
here on our campus and they were black women, which
is phenomenal.

One is Doctor Brown, Stacy Brown. She
completed her doctoral research under the direction
of Doctor Lewis Johnson, who I think is here. Yes,
so this is Professor Lewis Johnson.

Her research project involved the use of laser induced breakdowns spectroscopy, LIBS, for the elemental analysis of organic and isotope enriched materials to improve detection sensitivity. Doctor Brown is going to assume a full-time position as a staff scientist with the National Nuclear Security Administration, and I think she might already be there.

Second, we had Doctor Patrice Jackson-Edwards. Doctor Edwards, Jackson-Edwards, completed her doctoral research under the direction of Doctor Elliott Treadwell, who is also here, who is also a professor of physics. And her research involved the use of K-shell X-ray fluorescence to conduct lead burden studies. I have no idea of what I'm reading, which makes it even more impressive to me.

Doctor Jackson-Edwards is in the process of publishing several papers and has presented research at various technical conferences. She's currently pursuing a tenure track, academic positions at colleges in Florida and Georgia, and she plans to teach physics and continue to pursue her research.

And so I am totally excited, not just because
of the accomplishments of these women, but also because of the support that they got from the College of Science and Technology and the dean there as well, and also from their faculty advisors. It takes a lot to shepherd someone through a Ph.D. process, particularly in science; and the fact that they have done it so well is just wonderful.

And can we go to the next slide? I think there's another slide.

And what was fabulous is that they actually had the chance to meet Governor -- I'm sorry, I call him Governor because he was Governor in Iowa when I was at Iowa, but Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, because he was the speaker at their graduation, and they said: Can we come in and see the Secretary? And he chatted with them and took photos and just helped make it an even more special day.

So we're really thrilled to have had the opportunity to support these women in their work in science, and I'm very happy to not answer any questions but to point out the people who could answer questions if you have questions about their research.
TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. Are there any questions or comments from the Board before I make just a couple?

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Madam Chair.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Trustee Alston.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Yes, good morning.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Good morning.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Not on this item, but I have another question as a follow-up from our previous meeting for the Provost.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Certainly. Did you want to go ahead and ask your question? I want to save my comments until last.

PROVOST DAVID: If we're moving from the topic of our wonderful women Ph.D.s, I --

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Is that what it is, Trustee Alston?

TRUSTEE ALSTON: No. Not on this topic, no.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: No, he said it's --

PROVOST DAVID: Not on this topic? Well, if I could ask if we could just give a round of applause to our faculty members who were their advisor.

(APPLAUSE).

PROVOST DAVID: That's the stuff that makes me excited.
TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. Very good, and I do want to say before we hear from Trustee Alston that I am also very proud of Doctor Stacy Brown and Doctor Patrice Jackson-Edwards. And I want to particularly, again, acknowledge Doctor Lewis Johnson and Doctor Elliott Treadwell.

The faculty really is -- really do serve as the frontline support of what we do here at Florida A & M University. And without them, none of us would be here. We wouldn't have the University without students, but we certainly wouldn't have it without faculty. We need faculty first before we can even admit students to a university, so I acknowledge those faculty contributions and the dedication, as you indicated, Provost David, that they bring to their jobs. These are not 9-to-5 jobs, these are jobs that are 24/7.

As a faculty member, I understand that a lot of faculty members, they have our -- students have our cell phones, they have our home addresses, whether we give it to them or not. So congratulation to Doctor Lewis Johnson as well as Doctor Elliott Treadwell and those two outstanding students who will now go forth and represent our
University in the best kind of way.

Thank you, Provost David.

PROVOST DAVID: Thank you.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: And I agree with you about
the excitement, it is exciting.

And at this time, I believe Trustee Alston had
a question that may relate back to our meeting,
again as you indicated, on May 18th.

Trustee Alston.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good morning.

PROVOST DAVID: Good morning.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: My question is as a
follow-up. I know we had conversation or had a
series of questions regarding the Black Television
News Channel, that whole initiative.

Will there be a formal follow-up today, or is
that tomorrow? I know I had put in a request for
a series of questions and comments, and I know I
did receive the written information but just
wasn't sure if there was going to be something
formal.

PROVOST DAVID: So good morning, Trustee
Alston. And, yes, we did provide the written
answers because, unfortunately, the dean is not
available at this time. She's away traveling at a training actually.

I had thought that we had communicated, I'm not sure if it was with the chair, that we would have her available in August to answer any questions in terms of further updates. But at least in terms of the responses that you received, nothing has happened since those responses were submitted, I think the next week, in May.

There's still more movement now than there was when there was the ongoing transaction, which seemed to have slowed things down; but so far there hasn't been yet that final push to close the deal.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Okay. Thank you.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Thank you, Trustee Alston. And I thought in that meeting that we also agreed that even if she couldn't come to this meeting, that in our next meeting that we would have some sort of presentation. And I hope, Trustee Alston, that that would meet with your satisfaction.

TRUSTEE ALSTON: Sure.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. Thank you, Provost David.

Are there any other questions at this time for Provost David related to the Academic Affairs
Committee?

(NO RESPONSE).

TRUSTEE GRABLE: If not, can I get a motion to adjourn the Academic Affairs Committee meeting?

TRUSTEE ALSTON: So moved.

TRUSTEE WOODY: Second.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Thank you. It has been properly moved and seconded, and our meeting is now adjourned. Thank you.

(WHEREUPON, THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS ADJOURNED).

* * * * *

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I, NANCY S. METZKE, RPR, FPR, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this CertDate day of CertMonth, 2015.

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NANCY S. METZKE, RPR, FPR
Court Reporter