FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees

Governance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
10:45 a.m.
The Grand Ballroom

Committee Members: Thomas Dortch, Chair
Kimberly Moore, Rochard Moricette, Belvin Perry and Nicole Washington

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
   Trustee Dortch

II. Roll Call
    Ms. Linda Barge-Miles, Esq.

ACTION ITEMS

III. December 4, 2019 Minutes
    Trustee Dortch

IV. Updated Presidential Evaluation Form
    Dr. Melanie Wicinski

INFORMATION ITEMS

V. Timelines for President’s Goal Setting and Evaluation
   Trustee Dortch

VI. Board of Trustees Annual Self-Survey Form
    Dr. Melanie Wicinski

VII. Government Relations Update
     Mrs. Danielle McBeth, Esq.

VIII. Adjournment
Subject: December 4, 2019 Minutes

Proposed Board Action: Approval of the Minutes

Rationale: Section 5.10 of the Board of Trustees Operating Procedures provides that detailed minutes should be kept for any Board or Committee meeting. Those minutes should include a record of votes cast and attendance.

Recommendation: Approve the Governance Committee meeting minutes for December 5, 2019.

Attachments: A copy of the minutes is attached.
Trustee Dortch, the new chair of the Governance Committee, called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Dortch, Moore, Moricette, Perry and Washington.

The Committee’s first action was approval of the minutes from the June 5, 2019 and August 16, 2019 meetings. Trustee Moore moved approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Perry and the motion carried.

Next, the committee received a recommendation from the General Counsel’s Office that the Unmanned Aircraft Systems policy be placed in abeyance due to feedback from the vice president for research regarding possible funding opportunities. The policy will be placed on the committee’s agenda for its next meeting.

The Committee also heard a presentation from Dr. Melanie Wicinski regarding recommendations for changes to the tool the Board uses to evaluate the president. She also indicated that she is also working on recommendations regarding the BOT’s self-evaluation. Recommendations included moving from a paper form to Qualtrics, which is a digital platform. Trustees were also given two options, using general questions or targeted questions. Dr. Wicinski shared that Option 1 is similar to what the BOT is currently using to evaluate the president. It is not easily quantifiable and it focuses on the respondent’s perception rather than directly on the president’s performance. With Option 2, the results are easily quantifiable, it mirrors dashboard methodology and generates data for meaningful feedback. Dr. Wicinski indicated that she used the presidential profile, past surveys and surveys from other universities to create this option. This option format also mirrors a more traditional performance evaluation.

The Committee provided several recommendations regarding the structure of the evaluation. Chair Dortch indicated that it was important for the BOT to weigh-in on the evaluation. Chair Lawson indicated that the evaluation really needs to tie-in to the work plan. Chair Dortch asked Trustee Lawson to provide the committee with a timeline regarding when the proposed document would be brought back to the BOT. Trustee Lawson said he would provide an updated timeline in early January 2020, for the internal team for development of the document and to ensure the timely completion of the evaluation at the Board’s August Retreat.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the meeting adjourned.
Subject: Updated Presidential Evaluation

Proposed Board Action: The Board will consider for approval an updated presidential evaluation. Dr. Melanie Wicinski, Director of the Office of Assessment will provide an update on the proposed revisions to the presidential evaluation.

Attachments: A PowerPoint presentation will be provided prior to the Board meeting.
Subject: Presidential Goals and Evaluation Timeline

Background Information and Summary: The Board of Trustees conducts an annual evaluation of the president’s performance for the prior year. The attached document provides the timeline for setting the president’s goals, as well as a separate timeline for conducting the president’s evaluation.
Subject: Board of Trustees Self-Assessment

Background Information and Summary: The Board of Trustees’ Governance Committee Charter provides that the Board will conduct a self-assessment annually. Additionally, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges, Principles of Accreditation 4.2(g) requires governing boards to regularly evaluate their responsibilities and expectations.

The Board, in its efforts toward continuous improvement, asked the Governance Committee to provide suggested updates for its self-assessment. Dr. Melanie Wicinski, Director of the Office of University Assessment will guide this exercise and provide suggestions and best practices.
Subject: Government Relations Update

Background Information and Summary: Each year the Board of Trustees submits a Legislative Budget Request to the Board of Governors. This request highlights the University’s legislative priorities. Mrs. Danielle McBeth, Esq., Director of Government Relations, will provide an update on the status of the priorities.
Strategic Investments to Increase Student Success

RECURRING FUNDS REQUESTED: $13.6 MILLION
TOTAL REQUEST: $15 MILLION

The University has made progress in recent years in improving student success outcomes in such areas as six-year graduation rates and reducing time-to-degree. As such, funding is requested to support strategic investments that will accelerate the University's progress toward achieving the targeted student success outcomes.

Student Scholarships and Financial Support (Total Recurring $6 million)
Expansion of Financial Support ($3 million Recurring)

The University is requesting recurring funding for unmet student financial support in the amount of $3 million to facilitate the implementation of best practices.

Student Scholarships ($3 million Recurring)
The University is requesting $3 million in recurring funding to recruit and retain National Merit Scholars and other high-achieving, highschool graduates. These funds will enable the University to fully support 150 top students each year.

Expansion of Academic Support Services (Total Recurring $2.5 million)
Academic Support Services ($1.5 million Recurring)

The University is requesting $1.5 million in recurring funding to hire additional advisors/coaches, expand tutorial and peer-mentoring services and upgrade and maintain the technology infrastructure for monitoring student progress and success.

Integrated Advancement for the FAMU-FSU Joint College of Engineering
(Total Recurring $6.5 million)

These additional resources will fund new faculty researchers in strategic areas, provide start-up funds and research equipment for faculty, support undergraduate student success, strengthen graduate student programs and address faculty retention. This will allow each of the two universities to improve on several key performance metrics: academic progress rates, graduation rates, production of undergraduate and graduate degrees in areas of strategic emphasis, employment and salary outcomes for students and metrics related to research and grant production.

In the four years since the Legislature and partner university leadership recommitted to the joint college, we have seen an increase in most areas by 20%, to a faculty of 119, graduating 500 engineers each year and securing $24 million in external research funding annually. This growth was fueled by carryforward that is now depleted and the future is jeopardized by the inadequate E&G funding to the college's joint budget. The State University System Board of Governors has identified our $6.5 million LBR request as a top system-wide priority in their 2020-21 budget request. Additional financial support is needed for the University to sustain the recent very positive momentum.
Expansion of Services for Florida College System (FCS) AA Transfers ($1 million Recurring)
The University is requesting $1 million to hire Transfer Specialists who will work collaboratively with FAMU’s partner FCS institutions to create a seamless transfer process for prospective students.

Academic Program Enhancement ($3.5 million Recurring)
Faculty Excellence ($3 million Recurring)
The University is requesting a total of $3 million in recurring funding to support faculty hires in areas of strategic emphasis and to increase institutional capacity to provide competitive salaries for the retention of high-performing faculty.

Program Enhancements ($500,000 in Recurring)
High-quality academic programs must have a state-of-the-art learning environment, modern technology and sufficient staff support to provide students with the type of learning experiences and training that will enable them to be competitive for employment in such high-demand areas as STEM and the health sciences. Funds for this initiative will enable FAMU to accelerate an increase in the four-year graduation rate.

Technology Upgrades (Total Recurring $500,000)
FAMU is requesting $500,000 in recurring funds for annual instrumentation and technology upgrades to teaching laboratories and classroom spaces.

Online Course Offerings (Total Recurring $1 million)
FAMU is requesting a total of $1 million in recurring funds to develop and offer online courses in areas of strategic emphasis. These funds will also allow the University to provide online student-support services and additional flexibility in enrolling in courses to complete degree requirements.

Technology Infrastructure Improvements ($600,000 Recurring; $1.4 million Non-Recurring)
In support of FAMU’s efforts to provide an exceptional student experience, high impact research and a first-class business infrastructure, $2 million is requested to address critical technology/cybersecurity infrastructure needs.

Cybersecurity Infrastructure ($600,000 Recurring)
The University is requesting $600,000 to replace the university border routers, adding security appliances and upgrading incident response technology that will enable FAMU to provide a more robust and secure cybersecurity infrastructure. It will include advanced monitoring functionality and proactive capabilities.

Technology Infrastructure ($1.4 million Non-Recurring)
Due to the University's aging technology infrastructure non-Recurring funding of $1.4 million is needed for critical software and hardware upgrades: Data Analytics and Business Intelligence ($400,000) and Network and wireless building infrastructure ($1 million).

Agriculture Research, Education and Training Project ($2.2 million)
FAMU has made significant investments in the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station (BAERS). Due to the University's limited resources, legislative funding is needed to fully establish the site in alignment with the vision.

FAMU is requesting $2.2 million to support and enhance agriculture research and technology transfer of new farming techniques to small farmers in the local community and around the state. These funds will augment the state’s workforce and innovation goals, support enhancement to the agriculture industry and stimulate economic development. It will further enhance FAMU’s capacity and ability to conduct essential research that will lead to new discoveries and the development of new economic crops and livestock that will empower our stakeholders to farm more efficiently.

Public Education and Capital Outlay (PECO)
Chiller plant upgrades: 3 phase proposal totaling $21.126 million with year one-$5.4 million, year two-$4.6 million and year three-$11.3 million. Replaces outdated and old boilers and chillers across the campus. This will modernize and dramatically increase energy efficiency for the university.