

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees**



**MEETING MINUTES  
March 28, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Bruno, Carter, Dortch, Grable, Lawrence, Lawson, McCoy, Mills, Moore, Perry, Reed, Washington, and Woody.

**CLOSED SESSION FOR LITIGATION**

Next, Acting General Counsel Attorney Shira Thomas provided instructions regarding the closed-session for pending litigation. It was properly moved and seconded that the Board move into its closed session. The motion carried. The Board then moved into the closed session with the following participants: Attorney Shira Thomas, Attorney David Self, Attorney Robert Sniffen, Diana Shuman, President Larry Robinson, and the court reporter.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals presented public comments:

Bruce James II	Antonio Carrion	Emanuel Imwang
Sharon Bee	Hattie Alexander	Carolyn Collins

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, Interim President*

Chair Lawson recognized President Robinson his report. President Robinson welcomed several new administrators to their positions:

- Henry Clinton Talley V. – Dean of Nursing
- Wanda Ford – Interim Chief Financial Officer
- Charles Weatherford – Interim Executive Director of Title III
- Ronald Henry – Associate Vice President of Information Technology Services

President Robinson also shared that he created Division of Strategic Planning, Analysis, and Institutional Effectiveness, which is being led by Vice President Maurice Edington. This division will increase the coordination of efforts to monitor progress on strategic planning goals and key performance indicators.

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Highlights from his report included the following:

- FAMU-FSU College of Engineering professors Tarik Dickens, Hui Wang and Carl Moore were awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Historically Black Colleges and Universities Research Infrastructure for Science and Engineering (HBCU-RISE) Award. This competitive national grant is worth nearly one million dollars and is the first one awarded to FAMU.
- Eli Lilly and Company introduced the inaugural Sybil C. Mobley Scholars Program. The program is named for the late School of Business dean and is designed to increase the representation of diverse talent in Lilly’s marketing organization. The Scholars Program will provide a 10-week internship for up to eight students the summer after their junior year in the Lilly marketing organization.
- FAMU senior biology student Ezekiel Bello won best research poster in the “Developmental Biology and Genetics” category at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). The gathering is one of the largest professional conferences for minority students to pursue advanced STEM training.
- In February, Maiya Stevenson, Akeisha Mandela, and Kyrik Gaines, FAMU Concert Choir students were selected to showcase their talents as members of the honors choir during the 2017 Young Adult Honors Performance Series at the renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- FAMU secured a new five-year Center for Academic Excellence for Cyber and Network Security. The National Security Administration conveys this important designation. FAMU is exploring new private funding mechanisms to support our emerging cyber security thrust.
- FAMU’s legendary softball Coach Veronica Wiggins earned her 700th victory during the Puerto Rico Classic Softball Tournament with a win over Howard University. She is the first historically Black college or university Division I coach to reach 700 wins.
- FAMU alumni, friends, and community supporters turned out in Lakeland in February to celebrate a milestone achieved by the FAMU NAA Polk County Chapter. After two years of dedicated fundraising, the chapter achieved its goal of fulfilling a \$100,000 scholarship endowment. The check was presented by chapter president Doris Hicks.

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- The FAMU College of Science and Technology is gearing up for its fourth annual STEM Day. The event will be held Saturday, April 8, 2017, in the Grand Ballroom and provides middle and high school students with hands-on, problem-solving experiments in STEM disciplines. This year we are expecting nearly 500 students to attend.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Lawson recognized the Committee chairs to present their respective reports.

**Academic and Student Affairs**

*Trustee Matthew Carter, Chair*

Trustee Carter reported that the Academic Affairs committee met and had three actions items that were included on the consent agenda. During the meeting Dr. Henry Talley, the new Dean for the School of Nursing was introduced and gave brief remarks.

Updates were provided on the licensure pass rates and the 2+2 program. Trustee Carter then introduced the idea of a possible Public Private Partnership with VCOM. It was recommended that further study be completed and a workshop be convened to discuss in greater detail.

**Audit and Compliance**

*Trustee Craig Reed, Chair*

Trustee Reed stated that the Audit and Compliance Committee met and had one action item included on the consent agenda. The committee then heard updates on the implementation of the compliance and ethics program, which is required by the Board of Governors. An implementation timeline was provided to the committee.

An update on the Auditor General's operational audit for the period April 2015 through June 2016 was provided. There were 10 findings (2 High impact, 2 moderate impact, and 6 low impact). Corrective action plans are being developed.

Finally, Trustee Reed reported that Ernst & Young has been hired to perform an audit of the Rattler Boosters.

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## **Budget, Finance and Facilities**

*Trustee Harold Mills, Member*

Trustee Mills presented the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee report. The committee had one action item included on the consent agenda.

The Committee heard several updates regarding: capital projects, facilities priorities, space utilization, the budget, a multi-year budget process, cost savings, succession planning, and information regarding the food service vendor contract.

## **Direct Support Organizations**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch shared that the current giving is at \$5.2M in cash contributions. This same period last year, approximately \$4.9M had been raised in cash donations and pledges. Staff is getting prepared to launch the \$100,000,000.00 campaign and is currently working on the campaign readiness report. The campaign will be brought to the BOT for its approval.

The Office of Alumni Affairs (OAA) assisted the Division of Student Affairs in organizing recruitment events. Events were hosted by Trustees in Jacksonville, Atlanta, and Gainesville. The Polk County Chapter fulfilled its commitment of raising \$100,000 for a scholarship endowment. The OAA and the FAMU Foundation are handling logistics for the Legacy Banquet in support of FAMU Athletics. The Banquet will be held in the Lawson Center, March 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Other updates included the following:

- The Foundation recently elected Commonfund as its investment manager.
- The FAMU Foundation's endowment currently stands at \$120M.
- The Rattler Boosters Board met February 25 in Orlando; joining the group were Trustee Thomas Dortch, AD Milton Overton, and the Boosters Executive Director nominee.
- The Boosters report that many productive meetings have occurred from November 2016 to March 2017, meetings that included Trustee Dortch, AD Overton, and Vice President Cotton.
- The Boosters are currently accepting nominations to its board.

## **Presidential Review**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch reported that the Presidential Review Committee met and reviewed its charge. The committee then discussed hosting forums for stakeholders to provide input regarding the skill sets

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and qualities they seek in a president. Chair Lawson addressed the committee regarding retaining a consultant for guidance through the search process.

During the Board meeting, Trustee Dortch continued the discussion that was initiated during the committee meeting and asked the Board to refer to the proposal they received from RHR Consulting Firm. Since at least one member had questions regarding the process, he asked Chair Lawson to discuss the proposed process with the Board.

Chair Lawson explained that he is suggesting that the Board follow a proven process to determine the skill sets, attributes, background, qualities, and characteristics of the person the Board wants as the next president. Each trustee will provide input, individually, to the consultant for the development of a leadership profile. The current interim president will be interviewed to get the same information, as well. There will also be public forums with alumni, students, and faculty to gain input regarding what is most important to those constituents. At the end of the collection of this information the consultant will put together an overall leadership model that will allow the Board to do three things at the end of the process:

1. The Board can decide to go with a full-blown search, using this as a framework by which they select an individual
2. The Board can continue to evaluate Dr. Robinson in regards to the framework because it will be close to his formal evaluation; or
3. The Board uses the framework to make an earlier decision.

He further explained that this will give the Board a structured disciplined approach with a very finite set of characteristics, qualities and performance expectations by which they can evaluate the future president. This process has been used to select CEO's of major corporations across the country and it's not a process run by the Board. The Board provides objective input to the process, then the leadership profile is developed based on the trustee's individual interviews, as well as interviews with other key stakeholders.

Trustee Dortch indicated that the BOT would be following the University's policies and those of the Board of Governors regarding retaining consultants and would be negotiating the fees associated with the service. The Committee would be looking at two phases:

1. Planning and role profile definition which includes phone based interviews with all board members and drafting, reviewing and developing the winning formula profile for the target role; and
2. Vetting the winning formula profile with additional constituencies. Consultation with the Board on methods and data collection including webinars, focus groups, facilitating meetings conducting surveys, collect data from alumni, faculty, foundation, and student representatives. The consultant would debrief the Board to discuss the additional input and finalize the winning formula profile.

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Trustee Dortch said that these are the two items that would be recommended to the Board, whether it's from the proposed consultant or any consultant. These are the pieces that will help the Board organize information gathering and the Board can have a very strategic and organized approach in this process.

The Committee suggested that the Board needs to establish a committee budget. They also indicated that the current interim president would not be eliminated from the process.

Trustee Dortch then moved that the Board retain the service of a consulting firm to guide the Board through this process and with the recommended parameters from the committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Perry and the motion carried.

Trustees requested a list of the schools the proposed consulting firm had provided consulting services. Chair Lawson clarified that they were not using the firm to conduct the search, just to draft the leadership profile. The firm is just being contracted to build a profile to help the Board outline the process.

Trustee Dortch shared that the committee is scheduled to meet with several stakeholder groups in the upcoming weeks.

## **Special Committee on Athletics**

*Trustee Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson asked Associate VP Sameer Kapileshwari to provide an update on the repairs to Bragg Stadium. He reported that the designs have been completed and the contractor has priced the construction at \$391,000.00. The repairs should be completed before the first home game.

Finally, Chair Lawson reported that the athletic deficit for this year is approximately \$77,000.00.

## **Strategic Planning and Performance Measures**

*Trustee Nicole Washington*

Trustee Washington reported that the Committee met and it had no action items. Vice President Edington provided updates to the Committee on the strategic plan's preliminary budget, possible funding sources, and a timeline for completion. The draft strategic plan will be brought to the Board for a vote during the June 2017 meeting.

With regards to performance funding, the committee was provided updates on the University's preliminary results and on-going efforts to improve performance on the metrics.

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Trustee Dortch challenged the University to get 77 donors to contribute \$1,000 to alleviate the athletic deficit. Several Trustees made donations or commitments to that effort.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was moved for approval by Trustee Carter and seconded by Trustee Bruno. The motion carried. The consent agenda included the following items:

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

- BT1 November 18, 2016 Minutes
- BT2 January 17, 2017
- BT3 February 20, 2017
- BT4 March 3, 2017

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)**

- ASA1 Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave
- ASA2 Honorary Doctorate – Raymond A. Brown (Posthumously)
- ASA3 Honorary Doctorate – Garth C. Reeves, Sr.

**Audit and Compliance (AC)**

- AC1 Information Technology Compliance Audit

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)**

- BFF1 Auxiliary Facility Income and Expenditure Statements

Chair Lawson asked Provost Wright for an update on the College of Law (COL). He indicated that the COL had created an action plan, similar to plans instituted by the other professional programs. The plan should be completed by the June 2017 BOT meeting. During the June meeting Chair Lawson suggested that the Board discuss optimal enrollment of the COL, the enrollment strategy moving forward, working collectively to create a comprehensive plan regarding fundraising, graduation rate, bar passage rate, placement of students, externships and clerkships.

President Robinson noted that the Board of Governors March 29-30, 2017 meeting will be held at FAMU.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.