



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
**FACULTY SENATE**

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2021  
ATTENDANCE ROSTER

**Officers (Present)**

Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos, President  
Dr. Tiffany Ardley, Vice President  
Dr. Naquita Manning, Secretary  
Dr. James Muchovej, Interim Parliamentarian

**Senators (Present)**

Dr. Anthony Ananga  
Dr. Clement Allen  
Dr. Ezzeldin Aly  
Dr. Kelley Bailey  
Mr. Douglas Blackburn  
Dr. Jamal Brown  
Dr. Terrell Brown  
Dr. Tarik Dickens  
Mr. Keith Fagg  
Dr. Kyle Eidahl  
Dr. Islam El Sharkawy  
Dr. Lisa Gardner  
Dr. Kurt Gray  
Dr. Muhammad Haseeb  
Dr. Lavetta Henderson  
Dr. William Henslee  
Dr. Roscoe Hightower  
Dr. Aretha Hill  
Dr. Craig Huffman  
Dr. Leah Hunter  
Dr. Leona Johnson  
Dr. Michee Lachaud  
Dr. Michael Martinez-Colon  
Dr. Arlesia Mathis  
Dr. Courtney Micots  
Dr. Mahsan Mohsenin  
Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku  
Dr. Daniel Osborne  
Dr. Leon Prosper

**Senators (Present) cont'd**

Dr. Robin Perry  
Dr. Cynthia Ramkellawan  
Ms. Karen Southwell  
Dr. Jeneen Surrency  
Dr. LeeShawn Thomas  
Dr. Angela Thornton  
Dr. Kenya Washington Johnson  
Ms. Carrington Whigham  
Dr. Pia Woodley

**Senators (Absent)**

Dr. Yassir Abdelrazig  
Mr. Christopher Allen  
Ms. Thomasina Brock  
Dr. Ashvini Chauhan  
Dr. Abdul Sharif  
Dr. Novell Tani  
Mr. Anthony Thompson  
Dr. Micheal Thornton

**EX-OFFICIO (Voting) (Present)**

Dr. David Jackson, Jr.  
Dr. Robert Taylor

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2021**  
**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via ZOOM**

**Call to Order Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos**

Dr. Cavazos called for a quorum. At 3:03 p.m. Quorum present.

**Approval of the Agenda – March 16, 2021**

Dr. Cavazos called for a motion and vote to approve the agenda with modification to Continuing Business, Mr. Brian Smith is unavailable for report on student grievance with faculty. Moved by Dr. Daniel Osborne. Second by Dr. David Jackson. No discussion. No opposition. Motion passed via zoom voice vote; meeting Agenda approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2021**

Dr. Cavazos asked for a motion and vote to approve the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes with necessary correction. Moved by Dr. Pia Woodley to approve minutes with any necessary corrections. Second by Dr. Ezzeldin Aly. Dr. Cavazos called for discussion. None presented. Voting conducted via Zoom voice vote. No opposition. Motion passed, minutes approved.

**OPENING REMARKS: Dr. Cavazos, President of Faculty**

Good afternoon, Senators, Faculty, President Robinson, Provost Edington, Deans, and distinguished guests.

As we continue to celebrate a Women’s History Month and the incredible accomplishments of women all over the world, I stand amazed and in awe of these pioneers, these SheRoes!

From Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, from Katherine Johnson to Mae Jemison, from Barbara Jordan to Kamala Harris, these incredible women have fought and forged a pathway where before, none existed. What they did, no one had done before!

These women were the firsts in their fields, and you, faculty, are a big reason why these women became who they became and accomplished what they accomplished. Each one had a teacher, or an inspiration of some kind that encouraged them to do something and become someone more than they themselves knew.

Whether it was a Sunday school teacher in a little wooden Church in the countryside or a College Professor, an educator was one of the prime motivators behind their success. Mae Jemison, the first Black woman Astronaut, credits actress Nichelle Nichols, who played Lt. Uhura, in the original Star Trek series, as her inspiration for wanting to become an Astronaut and pursue a career in Science and Space! In essence, Nichelle Nichols became Mae’s teacher—taught her, inspired her to think and to dream higher!

Today, we have our current “women of power and distinction;” Staci Abrams and our own Keisha Lance Bottoms, both of whom are shaking things up in Georgia to Amanda Gorman, the

nation's youngest Inaugural Poet. These women are making a difference wherever they go. And each one had an incredible educator behind them.

Today, I want to celebrate you ladies, and yes, you too, gentlemen, the faculty of FAMU, because you make a difference in the lives of our future leaders in the areas of technology, medicine, science, law, education and politics. You are the movers and the shakers because without you, we would have-no them!

Thank you!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos**

Farewell to VP Beverly Barrington, who will be retiring at the end of March. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, we wish you a wonderful retirement. You have served the senate well, answering questions at the Steering Committee meetings, presenting at the faculty Senate meetings; your willingness to serve has significantly been appreciated. Thank you for living your life in a spirit of cooperation with others. We will greatly miss you. I wish you an abundance of all things that matter most to you, for you have enriched all of our lives. Thank you.

- Applications for TOY is closed and Dr. Perry, the Chair and his committee are working diligently reviewing all applications.
- Similarly, application for the Institutional Research Award is closed and Dr. Aly, the Chair and his committee are working diligently reviewing all applications.
- The revision of the University Constitution has been reviewed by Provost Eddington and his team and the revision draft is now in President Robinson and General Counsel's hands. We await their input.
- Reminder to Senators, please work with your deans or chairs, or the individual responsible for class scheduling, to let them know that as a senator the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3-5 to be sensitive to not schedule class for your during that time.
- As a reminder, Senators and Faculty please complete FAMU Fundamentals 2021 Compliance training. There are 4 modules, it must be completed by March 31.
- Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) is charged with advising the Chancellor of the State University System.
- Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) penned a resolution that strongly opposes the legislative entitlement to record classes and the legislatively mandated intellectual diversity survey. It will have a chilling effect on the free exchange of ideas among faculty and students and affect all universities' reputations and competitiveness in the SUS. Many of the SUS schools have joined forces with ACFS.

**UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION REMARKS: President, Dr. Larry Robinson**

Summary:

Federal funding has provided assistance with revenue loss associated with impact of the pandemic, however legislature is continuing to discuss budget reductions that could create additional challenges with operations. The University has made recent progress on critical performance metrics and loss of revenue could impact metric gains. The University has remained consistent in level of percentage of bachelor's degrees awarded in program with strategic emphasis, but saw a decline in graduate degrees awarded in programs with strategic emphasis. Overall, President

Robinson is anticipating a “good year” in terms of overall score for performance model. In comparison from six years ago to present, graduation rate has increased from approximately 13.8% to 30-33%. President Robinson credits student success to Provost Edington, Dr. Hudson, and experiences in classroom, advisement, and other levels of support from University personnel.

President Robinson reports he was given goal to raise \$7.3 million dollars by July 31, 2021. Currently over \$9 million dollars have been raised.

The University continues to receive accolades for the COVID-19 Test Site. More than 290,000 tests have been administered since standing up site April 2020; the largest, most effective site of this origin in this region.

Most recently, in collaboration with Department of Health, Emergency Management, the University opened a community-based COVID-19 Vaccination site in addition to test site. The site can offer up to 200 vaccinations a day in accordance with federal guidelines.

#### Questions

Dr. Jamal Brown asked if the University was engaging in advertising, social media or community outreach to inform the public our vaccine availability for COVID-19.

Dr. Robinson replied that media outlets have been engaged and been responsive in alerting the public about the FAMU initiatives to serve the public and the community.

In response to questions from the chat, President Robinson informed the Senate that currently 200 doses of the vaccine are available per day, and soon will increase to 400 doses per day. The COVID-19 vaccine available on campus is the Moderna vaccine and is administered in accordance with federal and state guidelines.

Testing continues on campus as well. A recent report is that there were 750 students and over 300 staff were tested. The results of those tests were zero positive students and three staff. Thus, we can conclude that people are doing the right things, and it is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Hightower asked about budget allocations and financial forgiveness for HBCUs.

President Robinson responded that yes certain expenses were forgiven, but there is still a significant financial obligation for the University. An example is the housing situation where only one occupant per room was assigned. Housing funds received were decreased, but employees must be paid, and maintenance for housing facilities is a cost that does not go away.

#### **UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION REMARKS: Provost, Dr. Maurice Edington**

Summary of Updates:

Spring Commencement – (In-Person Ceremonies)

- April 23 at 6:30 p.m. – School of Allied Health (SOAHS), School of the Environment (SOE), College of Education (COE)

- April 24 at 9:30 a.m. – College of Pharmacy (COPPS), Institute of Public Health (IPH), School of Business & Industry (SBI)
- April 24 at 6:30 p.m. – College of Social Sciences, Arts, & Humanities (CSSAH), Military Commissions
- April 25 at 9:30 a.m. – College of Science & Technology (CST), College of Agriculture & Food sciences (CAFS), School of Agriculture & Engineering Technology (SAET), School of Journalism & Graphic Communication (SJGC), FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, School of Nursing (SON)
- May 10 at 9:30 a.m. – College of Law

Planning to recognize 2020 graduates with their own in person ceremony; more to come.

Planning for the 2012-2022 Academic Year

- Campus reintegration
  - Goal set for Fall 2021 to return to campus, living and learning experiences
- Return to in-person instruction
  - Plan to have active campus environment this Fall 2021
- Faculty training and professional development

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

- \$35.9 million from HBCU/HBGI Allocation; working on spending plan
  - Focus for spending consists of student support, infrastructure for teaching and learning, and operational needs of the University

Efforts to Enhance Communication and Collaboration at the Unit Level

- Working with Ad hoc Committee, Dean’s Council, and Senate to enhance communication and collaboration at all levels.

No questions were posed to the Provost.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**Curriculum Committee Report, Dr. Kyle Eidahl, Chair University Curriculum Committee**  
Report is summarized as follows:

The March 2021 report of the Curriculum Committee to the Faculty Senate contains three program requests. These requests were approved by the Committee at its March 2021 meeting. The Committee recommends approval of all the requests by the Faculty Senate.

- FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
  - 4 new course requests
- School of Allied Health Sciences
  - 2 Program Modifications
    - B.S. Health Care Management
    - M.S. Health Administration
  - 4 Course Requests
    - 1 new course

- 1 course change to increase credit hours
  - 2 course name changes from Professional Leadership Development I and II to Executive Symposium I and II
- Office of Freshmen Studies
    - Request to add SLS 1101 First Year Experience to general education elective list

Dr. Cavazos called to entertain a motion to approve the Curriculum Committee Report as a slate, with necessary corrections.

Dr. Robin Perry motioned to approve Curriculum Committee Report as a slate. Second by Dr. Daniel Osborne. Voting conducted via Zoom voice vote. No opposition. Motion passed and report approved.

Report available via email upon request to secretary.

**Executive Council Update: Dr. Kyle Eidahl**

Report available via email request to Senate secretary.

- COVID-19
  - Faculty interested in being on wait list to receive COVID-19 vaccine should Email Tanya Tatum at Student Health.
- Faculty Planning Conference will be held in August. Email Dr. Tani or Dr. Eidahl if you have a topic of interest you would like added to conference agenda.

**Student Conflict Resolution, Faculty position with adjudication process:  
Ms. Antoneia Roe, Esq., Assistant VP for Student Affairs**

Summary of Report:

**Student Code of Conduct & Academic Dishonesty**

Regulation 2.012 Student Code of Conduct established community standards of behavior. Regulation is available online and applies to every student and student organization at the University. The jurisdiction of the University’s Code of Conduct is also available online. The Code of Conduct applies to activities sponsored by University officials and organizations, on campus, off campus, virtual, and online platforms.

Regulation 2.013 Due Process, Other Rights and Responsibilities outlines due process afforded to students. Schools and Colleges may have own process outlined in their handbook for resolving academic dishonesty violations, but must follow the University’s 2.013 regulation.

The University has two pathways for addressing Academic Dishonesty. For your reference: Board of Trustees Policy 2017-001 and Regulation 2.012 Student Code of Conduct. Both pathways afford the student the right to appeal the decision.

Faculty Role:

- Recommend statement on syllabus to address academic dishonesty with reference to Student Code of Conduct
- Consistent reinforcement
- Documentation and reporting of misconduct
- Follow the University's process
- Participate in student conduct process as a hearing panel member

Senate President, Dr. Cavazos asked if Faculty Senate had representation on hearing committee. Attorney Roe replied yes, Dr. Kenya Washington Johnson, Dr. Aretha Hill, and two additional Senate members serve on committee.

### **Student Financial Assistance Dr. William Hudson, Jr., Vice President for Student Affairs**

Summary:

Financial assistance process is operational to assist students as needed. Students must apply and must demonstrate financial need. The CARES Act II has delegated \$7M in grants to students at the graduate, undergraduate, and professional level. Funding disbursement to begin within the next week and will go to students directly. Maximum award is \$1,250. The University is also providing funding for students who have academic difficulty and need to take summer classes.

Faculty have also continued to steer students as needed, to Mental Health Counseling resources, and those efforts are appreciated.

Recharge Day: Requested input from faculty about having a "recharge day" to support faculty during the challenging times. April 8, 2021 is suggested date.

Dr. Edington voiced his support of the initiative but want faculty to understand that classes cannot be canceled for a day. The goal is to block out some time for everyone to "pause". The individual colleges and schools will be responsible for determining the best method for their programs to implement this initiative.

SGA Vice President, Ms. Carrington Whigham

Voice her support as day of recuperation for students as well. Students as well as faculty did not have a Spring Break and understand the need for an outlet and way of getting back on track.

Dr. Cavazos asks each Senator to take the information back to their colleges and schools regarding the proposal.

### **NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

Elected Offices for Faculty Senate (Dr. James Muchovej, Parliamentarian)

Procedure:

- Open floor for nominations
- After each nomination, wait a minimum of one minute for additional nominations
- Each candidate that accepts nomination will have 3 minutes to address the body
- Voting will occur after nominees' address body
- Offices vacant are President, Vice President and Secretary

Office for President of Faculty Senate

- Dr. Eidahl nominated Dr. Ann Marie Cavazos. Second by Dr. Aretha Hill. No additional nominations made

Dr. Hightower moved that nomination close on said names. Second by Dr. Daniel Osborne.

Speech deferred due to one nominee. Voting by Zoom vote. No opposition. Motion passed via zoom voice vote; Dr. Cavazos voted President of Faculty Senate for next term beginning Fall 2021.

Office of Vice President, Faculty Senate

- Dr. Ebenezer Oriaku nominated Dr. Tiffany Ardley
- Second by Dr. Jamal Brown
- Dr. Michael Martinez-Colon nominated Dr. Ezzeldin Aly
- Second by Dr. Eidahl
- Dr. Muhammad Haseeb nominate Dr. Islam El Sharkawy

Dr. David Jackson noted nominations do need a second and move nominations close on said three names. Second by Dr. Oriaku. Each member was allowed three minutes to address Senate.

Voting was conducted by Qualtrics link available in email to Senate members. Candidate must receive 50% vote to win office.

Office of Secretary, Faculty Senate

- Dr. El Sharkawy nominated Dr. Haseeb. Dr. Haseeb declined nomination.
- Dr. Tiffany Ardley nominated Dr. Jamal Brown. Dr. Brown accepted nomination.
- Dr. Cavazos nominated Dr. Karen Southwell. Dr. Southwell declined nomination.

Dr. Eidahl moved to close nominations, second by Dr. Perry. Voice conducted via Zoom voice vote. No opposition. Motion passed via zoom voice vote. Dr. Jamal Brown voted Secretary, Faculty Senate, beginning term, Fall 2021.

Dr. Tiffany Ardley voted Vice President, Faculty Senate for upcoming term, Fall 2021, receiving 60.61% of votes.

Dr. Cavazos moved to adjourn. Second by Dr. Pia Woodley.

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

// *Naquita Jackson Manning* //

Naquita Jackson Manning, DNP  
Faculty Senate Secretary