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FAMU BOT Schedules Forums and Launches Website to Gain Public Input on Search for New President

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida A&M University (FAMU) Board of Trustees (BOT) will seek public input regarding its presidential search process through two focus group meetings and a new website it plans to launch on Oct. 6.

“We believe that it is important to hear from our supporters, especially the faculty, students and alumni about the qualities they seek in a new leader for FAMU,” said FAMU Trustee Karl White, chair of the FAMU Presidential Search Committee. “We will use this information to help develop the presidential search criteria.”

One of the tools the board will use to gather data is a survey that will become a part of the new website. The survey would provide the board with feedback regarding the qualities that are most important. Areas of focus on the survey will be personality and style; personal experiences and skills; vision and mission; and challenges and opportunities.

“We want all of our stakeholders to be engaged in this process,” said Trustee Torey Alston, chair of the Presidential Search Marketing and Communications Subcommittee. “We have developed a website and forums to provide information that will be useful to making sure those who are interested can track the process.”

The focus groups are scheduled Thursday, Oct. 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Tallahassee in the FAMU Grand Ballroom and Saturday, Oct. 27 in Orlando at the FAMU College of Law from 10 a.m. to noon in the Moot Courtroom. Members of the FAMU Board of Trustees will lead a discussion with alumni, faculty, staff and students about the presidential search process.

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According to Solomon Badger III, chairman of the BOT, the board’s goal is to have a new president in place by July 2013.

“We believe that we can meet this deadline and prepare the campus community for new leadership,” said Badger. “This is one of the most important assignments that this board will undertake during its tenure. We know that this will not be an easy task, but we are willing to do whatever it takes to select the right person. We will work diligently, review candidates thoroughly, and select the best president for the next chapter in the life of this University.”

Beginning Oct. 6, the website can be accessed at www.famu.edu/presidentialsearch.