Trustees Present: Challis M. Lowe, Chairperson; Ramon Alexander; Barney Bishop (by phone); Regina Benjamin (by phone); Laura Branker (by phone); Laura Branker (by phone); Al Cardenas (by phone); Mary Diallo; Pamela Duncan; R.B. Holmes, Jr.; Leerie T. Jenkins, Jr.

Trustees Absent: William Jennings, Vice-Chairperson and David Griffin

Chairperson Challis M. Lowe called the Board Meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Two Trustees were absent, Vice-Chairperson William Jennings and David Griffin; four Trustees met telephonically: Barney Bishop, Regina Benjamin, Laura Branker and Al Cardenas. A quorum was established by Roll Call; the Agenda was approved and the Presidential Search Committee Report was added. The Minutes with corrections were adopted (October 6, 2005).

Chairperson Lowe began her comments by reflecting over the past year and stating that even though there are many challenges ahead that some great achievements have been made this year. She stated that the Board and the University should be proud. The first achievement that she noted was the re-implementation of the Board’s committee structure. She praised the chairs and the committees for really digging into the issues in great depth and reporting to the full Board. Their work has made the Board Meeting more manageable. Next she stated that ending the year with a surplus instead of a deficit is something to be proud of, and that the budgeting process has more discipline associated with it. Chairperson Lowe continued by stating that the Board has had to make some tough decisions about the budgeting process, and she thanked the good leadership of Trustee Holmes and President Bryant. Further, the noted that one of the hard decisions regarding the Athletics program was reversed, and that good fiscal management and good fund raising enabled the Athletics program to re-instate its previous slate of activities. In concluding her Report, Chairperson Lowe enumerated some of the challenges that the
Trustee Branker, assisted by Vice President of Academic Affairs Debra Austin, presented the Academic Affairs report. Of note are the academic calendars for ‘05/’06, ‘06/’07 and ‘07/’08 and a new degree program, the EDS in School Psychology.

The academic calendars were adopted.

Vice President Austin explained the EDS in Psychology, one of the targeted programs in the Board of Governors’ Strategic Plan, as well as identified as an area of critical shortage by the BOG. The existing master’s degree in the School of Psychology will be refocused with the reduction of credit hours.

The EDS in Psychology was adopted.

Trustee Branker announced that the Committee is also working on tenure and promotion criteria. They plan to review the process and make improvements as deemed appropriate. Further, the Committee is working on academic policies and over the next year it will bring progress to the full Board.

Trustee Allen reported for the Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee; FAMU Foundation was audited by Watson Rice. The Audit was acceptable and everything explained.

The FAMU Foundation Audit was accepted unanimously.

Next Trustee Allen stated that the National Alumni Association and Boosters Audits were unacceptable. The decision was based upon budgetary commitments and focused priorities. It is not that these groups are not raising money; it is what they are doing with the money. When there are students with 3.5. 3.6 GPAs who cannot afford an education, this should be the focus of the Alumni and Boosters. They should provide on scholarships for deserving students.

Trustee Allen and President Bryant spoke of a new Direct Support Organization, Research Foundation. A draft of Articles of Incorporation and By-laws are included in the Board Packet for consideration for approval. The purpose of the Research Foundation would enhance the University’s research level. It would provide a structure for reinvestment of research funds that are generated from invoices to agencies.

The Research Foundation was approved by the Board unanimously.

The next item discussed by Trustee Allen was the FAMU Foundation Endowed Chair and a proposal to raise 10 million dollars for the same. Col. Ronald Joe had