FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IN RE: STUDENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: NICOLE WASHINGTON, CHAIR
BELINDA SHANNON
ROBERT WOODY
BETTYE GRABLE
DAVE LAWRENCE

DATE: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2016
TIME: COMMENCED AT: 9:30 A.M.
CONCLUDED AT: 10:00 P.M.

LOCATION: PRESIDENT CONFERENCE ROOM
LEE HALL
FAMU CAMPUS
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY: NANCY S. METZKE, RPR, FPR
COURT REPORTER

C & N REPORTERS
POST OFFICE BOX 3093
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32315-3093
(850) 697-8314 / FAX (850) 697-8715
nancy@metzke.com
candnreporters.com
ALSO PRESENT:

Cleve Warren
Kelvin Lawson
Nicole Washington
PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN WARREN: Student Affairs starts at 9:30. It is to be chaired by Trustee Washington. You're welcome to continue to listen in for those of you who are not on that committee.

I just want also to forewarn you that at about 9:50 I will step out of the loop for the Governance Committee, and Trustee Lawson will represent my voting on that committee.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. Thank you, Chair Warren.

CHAIRMAN WARREN: Thank you.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Thank you, and good morning everyone, I would like to call the Student Affairs Committee meeting to order.

Ms. Miller, would you please call the roll?

MS. MILLER: Trustee Washington.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Here.

MS. MILLER: Trustee Grable.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Present.

MS. MILLER: Trustee Lawrence.

TRUSTEE LAWRENCE: Here.

MS. MILLER: Trustee Shannon.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Here.
MS. MILLER: Trustee Woody.

TRUSTEE WOODY: Here.

MS. MILLER: We have a quorum.

TRUSTEE LAWRENCE: This is Dave Lawrence. I'm sorry to bother you, but I just want to make sure, because I couldn't be heard earlier, and I've been here from the beginning, can you all hear me?

(AFFIRMATIVE INDICATIONS).

TRUSTEE LAWRENCE: Okay, good. That's all I wanted to -- thank you.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: And, Trustee Washington?

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Yes.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: This is Trustee Grable. I wanted to say I was present, but according to the information I have, it does not show that I'm a member of this committee.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: You are correct, Trustee Grable. We have the old committee list. We are going to recall the roll, please.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Okay. Thank you.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: No worries.

MS. MILLER: Trustee Washington.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Here.

MS. MILLER: Trustee Shannon.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Here.
MS. MILLER: Trustee Woody.

TRUSTEE WOODY: Here.

MS. MILLER: Trustee Carter.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Here.

MS. MILLER: And Trustee Lawrence.

TRUSTEE LAWRENCE: Here.

MS. MILLER: Thank you.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: The first action item is the review and approval of the December 10th, 2015, minutes. May I have a motion to approve the minutes?

TRUSTEE CARTER: So move.

TRUSTEE GRABLE: Second.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Thank you. The motion will carry.

Now we have an update by the Division of Student Affairs, VP Hudson.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Trustees.

(GOOD MORNING).

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Just a reminder to the trustees that all comments are recorded, so please move forward accordingly so that we can make sure that we move fastly through this presentation.

TRUSTEE WOODY: Yes, sir.
VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: I would like to begin with a brief description of Student Affairs. Student Affairs consists of 18 units, inclusive of recruitment, admissions, new student orientation, the welcome center, public safety, police department, parking, ombuds, scholarship office, campus recreation, housing and residential life, judicial affairs, educational research center for child development, student activities, student life, Student Government Association, Center for Disability Access and Resources, counseling center, health center, the federal trio grant programs which there are three of, the career center and the veterans' affairs center.

Our vision is to assist the University in becoming the best-in-class doctoral research student-centered institution by ensuring students have a positive co-curriculum incorporating programing that enables our students to grow as positive world citizens with a commitment to service our fellow man. The mission of the Division of Student Affairs is to deliver exemplary student support services to cultivate a safe, healthy and inclusive campus environment.

I will continue with updates and start with
the admissions. And I just want to preface this by saying that the green line is 2016. The orange line on the presentation is 2015.

We have seen a 50% increase in our summer applications, 10,020 compared to 520, and remain steady with fall applications, 2,583 compared to 2,672 at the same time in the previous year. These increases are due to strongly encouraging students with high GPAs yet require remediation to enroll in summer to begin preparation for college. This will significantly impact the University metrics through time to degree completion.

The preliminary average — if we can go to the next slide. That one, yes. The preliminary average GPA and test scores for the fall 2016 cohort are 3.65 GPA, 1553 SAT, and a 23 ACT which, as you can see, is an improvement over the previous year.

Important updates include, we have offered scholarships to students and we've received their acceptance. We are going through those to determine how many students have accepted the scholarships so that we can make sure we keep track of the budgeted money for scholarships for the next year.
Also, official notices have been sent to students of their acceptance letters, and also meeting the final tier of our admission criteria. Application reviews for the summer access and opportunity program have begun. This process will be completed and students notified by March 30th.

Now as far as other updates, we have begun accepting deposits for seat deposits, and the deadline for seat deposits is May 1st. This also allows us to determine the number of students that are arriving as a freshman class for the fall term as well as the summer term so that we can manage our classes accordingly.

Special talent students include our athletes, our band students, as well as our music students and theater. These are students that are acceptable for the fall that may not meet the criteria but fall under the special talent category prescribed by the Board of Governors.

Disbursements of financial aid to date for the 2015/2016 academic year, we have dispersed financial aid to 10,394 students. That includes students who graduated and new students that we got for the spring term. The total disbursements for the year for Pell Grant, which is for the most
needy students, we've dispersed $21,859,366. In loans we have dispersed $53,600,456.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Before you go, I want to ask you a question.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Okay.

TRUSTEE CARTER: I see most -- the greater amount is for loans. Is that -- what percentage of our students are on student loans, or do you have it broken down at that level?

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: We can get those numbers for you. We have it broken down. We can pull those numbers to determine the number of students that have received loans, and I'll get that to you.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Versus those that are on Pell.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: We know that 63% of our students are on Pell.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: And when you do the breakout, can you determine if those who are on Pell are also taking out loans in other --

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Yes.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Great. That would just be helpful to know.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: VP Hudson, this is Trustee
Shannon.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Yes, ma'am.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: A question, sorry to go back, backstep a minute, but on your previous slide you mentioned the special talent students that we were allowing in, a maximum of 50; and I was wondering if there were any thresholds or guidelines even among those 50 that we're giving exceptions to in terms of acceptance. Do you have some thresholds that you follow, and do we have in place measures to ensure that those students, despite their additional talent activities, have the academic support to, you know, ensure that they succeed at the same rates that we're expecting other students to succeed?

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Absolutely, and thank you for the question.

We do have guidelines in place, because they are in our special talent category, they're either athletes or in music or theater, and they have special programs. As you know already, athletics has a special program for all athletes that monitor and track their progress through to graduation and along with the APR that they have to perform.

And the guidelines that were set up for the
music department, we actually have Mr. Brian Smith
and Deidre McRoy who monitor the music department
students as they transition from semester to
semester to ensure that they meet the minimum
threshold for academic progress; and we also
monitor them through our financial aid for
satisfactory academic progress as well.

Those students have to go before the
Admissions Committee which are representatives
campus-wide, and they have to be recommended by
those different departments as far as athletics and
music to go before that committee. It's sort of
similar to what all the universities do for their
athletes and also special talent. It has to go
before an admissions committee, and they have to
show promise.

There may have been some economic or personal
circumstances that may have prohibited them from
being successful in high school, and typically
that's written in their essay. And their essays
are read and also voted on by that Admissions
Committee.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Okay. Thank you.
VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: You're welcome.
Okay. Student -- life and student government
updates, the spring 2016 election schedule has
begun with the election date of February 16th. The
new executive branch of student government will
take office at the end of the spring semester.

There's also an FSA roundup that's happening
that I found out last night at the rotunda at the
Capitol today at 11:30. Our SGA President
indicated, as president of FSA as well, that there
will be a roundup at 11:30 at the Capitol rotunda.

At this time --

TRUSTEE CARTER: Excuse me.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Yes.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Madam Chairman, may I ask a
question?

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Sure. Trustee Carter,
you're recognized.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Getting to Student Affairs,
have we done or do we on a normal basis survey the
students for issue purposes? For an example, to
find out what issues -- I know that the other night
at the Capitol when they passed out the
scholarships for those that are continuing on that
would help them to graduate, have we done a survey
to see what some of the students -- I know we've
had anecdotal information in terms of what we've
gotten from before, but do we actually survey the students to find out what the specific issues are in terms of what's precluding them from graduating on time or what forces them to drop out?

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Well, we have surveys that are done, the Noel-Levitz surveys that we complete biannually for students that tell us what are the particular areas where there are issues. We also have town hall meetings where we talk about different issues with students so that they can bring -- make us aware of those issues, but we can do a more in-depth survey. Sometimes those are very difficult because students want to talk one on one as opposed to revealing some sensitive issues. And we have an open-door policy, all of the AVPs, as well as myself where students come and talk about different issues that they may have that prohibits them from graduating, as well as with their academic advisors.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Do you guys collect that information?

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Excuse me?

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Do you collect -- I mean obviously not particulars, but do you collect sort of in a repository that sort of information?
VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Well, we keep information that they bring in, but a lot of the information is personal in nature that you don't -- they would not like for you to keep records of a lot of that personal information.

And Doctor Coleman, you wanted to add something?

DOCTOR COLEMAN: The Undergraduate Student Success Center, the advisors, they do by semester a calling campaign that they call -- where they call the students that have not registered or are not returning to really kind of hone in on the reasons. And there has been a report generated in the past that will show a student is not returning because of financial reasons or family reasons.

So there has been that type of specific report in terms of students that are on the SAP, financial aid, not meeting satisfactory academic progress. I'm the chair of that committee. In the committee we have kind of like a database of the reasons that students say they have not been meeting satisfactory academic progress; but similar to what Doctor Hudson said, you know, a lot of that information is very, you know, sensitive.

But there are some general reasons related to
medical, you know, family death, financial, those types of things, so we do kind of keep those, you know, those types of numbers just more anecdotal. Other than our NCS, you know, data and those specific surveys that the Office of Assessment does.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Madam Chairman, do you mind if we just ask for the current iteration of that report?

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: That would be fantastic.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: And I'm sorry, I didn't introduce Doctor Coleman. This is Doctor Angela Coleman. She is the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

TRUSTEE CARTER: Thank you.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Thank you. VP Hudson, would you continue.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Okay. We will now have Mr. Brian Smith, the assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs with a brief information item.

Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH: Good morning. Currently we have 3,341 students enrolled in the SUS-mandated online hazing prevention course. It's a very detailed
course that -- and was more efficient in providing information or educational aspects of our hazing prevention initiatives.

Right now FAMU has the largest percentage of students enrolled in the SUS member -- out of the SUS member institutions. Again, that's the largest percentage, 3,341 out of our 10,000 or so students.

We continue to work with the Office of Student Affairs and Student Activities to conduct the clubs and organizations workshops. We will also be conducting hazing prevention workshops with the softball, track and baseball teams, as well as the ROTC cadres. We also will be sending representatives to the Novak Institute of Hazing. That will be hosted at Georgia Tech this year. I'll be serving as one of the panelists. It's pretty -- I guess if you look in the hazing prevention world throughout the United States, it's one of the leading institutes that discusses that issue.

Over the fall semester, we had 14 allegations of hazing, and those have been investigated, and I have details should anyone have any questions about that. That's what we have as far as our hazing prevention at this point.
TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Mr. Smith, do the hazing allegations go through audit, or are those captured specifically in your area? Is there any overlap?

MR. SMITH: They don't go through Audit and Compliance. We do provide information to them.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Now if it's something that's related to retaliation, it goes through Audit and Compliance based on our University regulations.

As far as the hazing accusations or allegations, we have a multi-tier approach. When an allegation is made, it goes to FAMU Police Department, simultaneously with Office of Judicial Affairs as well as Student Affairs. We brief the President, we brief General Counsel's office so everyone -- all the stakeholders on campus will be abreast of any activities that may be happening.

Judicial Affairs will -- if it's an individual or organization, Judicial Affairs will investigate, or they may recommend or refer the case to another investigator. I've been referred cases before to investigate. The Police Department runs a simultaneous criminal investigation. We'd have Judicial Affairs, and then we do the parallel investigation, so in case it's a code of conduct
violation. It could be code of conduct; it could be criminal; it could be both, or it could be neither. So we try to make sure we have all of those bases covered.

If a student is charged for any hazing -- or oftentimes we will find out it may not be hazing related, but it could be another code-of-conduct violation. And that would be investigated just like any other issue on campus.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Thank you.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Mr. Smith, this is Trustee Shannon.

MR. SMITH: Good morning.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Good morning. Regarding the 14 allegations of hazing made during the fall of 2015, can you give us an idea of the types of organizations these allegations are being made against, and then, also, give us an idea of how this compares to the previous two or three fall timeframes that we've been keeping these type of metrics? Because I want to understand and perhaps get your opinion on whether you -- whether the culture and environment at FAMU is shifting for the better or the worst or is staying the same.

MR. SMITH: Okay. Well, I'll get into the
details, but I will say that I have a -- I don't know if I want to use the word "culture," but I will say that the atmosphere has changed for the better from what I've seen since I've been here. And I would say that there seems to be more awareness based on our initiatives that we've implemented.

The students have -- I feel they have a better mode of reporting. I think the faculty and staff are more engaged in any reporting, and so I will say along those lines, and I think those were some of the keys prior to my arrival, that it's much better. There's an awareness. It's a national problem, so I don't want it to seem like it's FAMU so that's why I didn't really want to use "culture" per se.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: No, I was specifically talking about FAMU's culture.

MR. SMITH: Oh, okay.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Because I know that we have had concerted resources and efforts on this for the past four years, and I just wanted to get an idea as to whether, you know, we felt that those efforts and those resources were working. And also, you know, again, my other two questions were: How do
these 14 compare to past fall semesters; and then, also, what kind of organizations are attracting these allegations?

MR. SMITH: Okay.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: So I mean of the 14, were they Greek letter organizations, were they band, choir, you know, otherwise?

MR. SMITH: Okay. We had one -- one was in the marching band, and that included a number of individuals. And that wound up not being hazing, but it led to individual judicial affair sanctions for those individuals. It wasn't termed as hazing, but there were other issues involved.

We had one Greek letter organization that had four different allegations. And from our research, we kind of anticipated an uptick -- we had a pretty strong I guess initiative -- not initiatives. We had a new member intake season, and so we kind of anticipate that you would get accusations made or an uptick in accusations during that season, especially from individuals who may not have been accepted. So that's been the trend since I've been here. Every time you have intake season, there's an increase in reports.

We had another organization which was also a
Greek letter, they had two separate incidents, and those were not substantiated. The prior -- out of the four, three of those four could not be substantiated at that time of the investigation, but they do still have one pending investigation.

We had another social organization or public service organization, and they had -- that was not substantiated.

We had a third Greek letter organization that was not substantiated, and we have two that are still -- that have ongoing investigations.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: So how many total ongoing investigations do we?

MR. SMITH: Two.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Two? Okay.

MR. SMITH: And the third question I guess was pertaining to --

TRUSTEE SHANNON: How does the volume of allegations compare to previous fall semesters?

MR. SMITH: 2014, they're very similar; 2015, they were lower than what we have now, but we didn't have nearly as many organizations having an intake process in 2015. So we see that trend, with the increase in intake, there's an increase in accusations.
I would love to at some time forward to you guys the information that we link from that online hazing. It really breaks down students' attitudes about the hazing. We have some who admit to -- and it's all anonymous, so you get a good feel for what they're saying. And you can really see the number of organizations that people are in, the people who are claiming that they have experienced hazing in middle school, high school and college. And you get an idea of how many said that they feel that the initiatives have changed their mind, and you have some say, of course, no, it didn't.

So I just see it's an ebb and flow, and with the students being transitional, I think it's important to keep pushing because we're now at the stage we have no students that were here when these initiatives started. Most of them have graduated, so you have new students coming in. We have to keep these same programs going I think.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: And, Trustee Shannon, this is Doctor Hudson. As we get more organizations that may return to campus, those numbers will change as well.

TRUSTEE SHANNON: Okay. Thank you.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: VP Hudson do we have a
protocol for, as new organizations come on, how we onboard them and try to prevent some of the uptick?

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: We do, as well as for organizations that have been suspended. We have methods for them to come back on campus. It's called reintegration.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT HUDSON: Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: Thank you, VP Hudson and Mr. Smith, and Angela.

Do we have any other questions from Committee members or members of the Board?

(NO RESPONSE).

TRUSTEE WASHINGTON: I will take that as a no. If we have no further business, this Committee meeting is adjourned.

CHAIRMAN WARREN: Thank you, Trustee Washington.

(WHEREUPON, THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED).

*       *       *       *       *
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA   
COUNTY OF LEON   

I, NANCY S. METZKE, RPR, FPR, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 21st day of February, 2016.

_________________________
NANCY S. METZKE, RPR, FPR
Court Reporter