

SUMMARY MINUTES
FAMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Monday, March 23, 2012

Chairman Solomon Badger called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He recognized Attorney Fuse-Hall for the roll. The following trustees were present: Chairman Badger, Trustee Torey Alston, Trustee Charles Langston, Trustee Kelvin Lawson, Trustee Breyon Love, Trustee Rufus Montgomery, Trustee Narayan Persaud, Trustee Belinda Reed Shannon, Trustee Marjorie Turnbull, and Trustee Karl White. A quorum was established.

Chairman Badger introduced Trustee Belinda Shannon, who is liaison to the FAMU Anti-Hazing Committee. She has been working diligently to facilitate the work of the committee. The Anti-Hazing Committee (AHC) had an organizational meeting on Friday, March 16, 2012, via a teleconference call. During the discussion, the committee asked Trustee Shannon to bring a recommendation to this Board of Trustees that the committee believes will allow it to conduct its work in a more effective manner. He recognized Trustee Shannon to present this matter.

Trustee Shannon provided background information about the AHC organizational meeting. She noted that during that meeting the committee members reaffirmed their commitment to help FAMU develop short and long-term strategies to address hazing. She noted that there was 100% attendance by committee members on the call. This meeting allowed members to learn more about each others' backgrounds and areas of expertise, and they also discussed how they might work together to complete their critically important work.

Specifically, the committee, with Judge Stephen Robinson serving as chairman, addressed the following issues:

1. Discussed specific focus areas of the committee, primarily the three goals outlined in the Crisis Management Plan;
2. Preliminarily assigned tasks among committee members grouped around the three goals; and
3. Discussed the best operational approach to meet the goals of the committee.

It was during the discussion of the latter issue that the committee expressed its desire – unanimously – to request a change in its original charge, which the Board of Trustees provided on January 2, 2012. The committee sought the change to reflect that the committee will be one in which they conduct fact-finding results instead of recommendations to the Board of Trustees. It was stated during the committee’s deliberations that “In order for the AHC to take full advantage of the talents and expertise of all its members, and to accomplish its work in as expeditious a fashion as possible, the AHC members need the ability to speak with one another spontaneously and on a continuous basis. Members must be able to quickly share their research and other work products. She said, “Members need to be able to, on a regular and ongoing basis, communicate with each other and share ideas and additional tasks. There needs to be the ability to exchange ideas among members, often on a one-on-one basis or between one or two committee members and me as information is accumulated and organized for the Board of Trustees. Communication among AHC members will be vital for the efficient completion of the committee's work.” The committee understands the need to move quickly and efficiently to provide findings of fact to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Shannon reiterated that it was clearly stated during the committee meeting that the FAMU Board of Trustees and the university administration firmly respects and strictly adheres to the Florida Sunshine Laws. Furthermore, it has been confirmed by legal counsel that the proposed new mode of operation is consistent with the provisions of the public meetings laws and that the Board of Trustees has the authority to make this change. It was also noted that the university has a strong desire for as much openness and transparency as possible and that the

committee will operate with those goals in mind. The AHC will discuss its process and report at a public meeting upon completing its work.

Trustee Shannon moved that the board change the charge of the FAMU Anti-Hazing Committee from “recommending action” to “fact-finding.” Trustee Karl White seconded the motion. The floor was open for discussion.

Several board members spoke against the motion, including Trustee Persaud, Trustee Montgomery and Trustee Lawson. Trustee Persaud outlined several disturbing factors associated with changing the charge. Trustee Montgomery agreed and noted that the University should not be perceived as working in secrecy.

Trustee Lawson had technical difficulty during this segment of the meeting and offered the following information, which the Chairman asked, be made a part of the record:

All, due to phone difficulties I was not able to vote or voice an opinion. I do not agree with the change in the charter. This is not consistent with the board’s direction and represents a strategy/scope change. I do not agree with allowing the committee to operate outside the Sunshine Law. This has serious implications for the University.

I would ask that we work with the committee on a firm timeline for delivery of their work. We have an expectation of seeing work at the April meeting.*

Following the discussion, the vote was taken by roll call:

Trustee Alston	For
Trustee Badger	For

Trustee Langston	For
Trustee Lawson	Against
Trustee Love	For
Trustee Montgomery	Against
Trustee Persaud	Against
Trustee Shannon	For
Trustee Turnbull	For
Trustee White	For

The motion carried.

Chairman Badger thanked Trustee Shannon and the Anti-Hazing Committee for its work and noted his confidence that she will continue to provide the needed leadership.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Fuse-Hall

Rosalind Fuse-Hall
Assistant Corporate Secretary