

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees

Governance Committee Minutes
Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair
Thursday, March 4, 2021

The Governance Committee met on Thursday, March 4, 2021. A quorum was established, with the following Committee members in attendance: Thomas Dortch, Michael Dubose, Xavier McClinton, Kimberly Moore, Belvin Perry and Kenny Stone. Trustee Nicole Washington did not attend the meeting.

The first agenda item was approval of the September 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Trustee Perry moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moore and it was approved unanimously.

Next, Danielle McBeth, Director of Government Relations provided an update on federal legislation including the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA). This package passed after Christmas included not only the COVID relief package, but also the traditional fiscal year appropriations bill. Mrs. McBeth explained that the funds provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) has specific guidelines regarding its usage. Funds can be used to defray expenses associated with COVID-19 such as lost revenue, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education and student support activities. The legislation also included specific exclusion.

Ms. McBeth then shared an update on the Governor's proposed priority budget allocations for 2021-2022. She said that it represents a 3% reduction over last year. The Governor's proposed budget for FAMU includes need based financial aid, FAMU-FSU Engineering and performance-based funding; however, the FAMU priorities include funding requests for the College of Pharmacy's Peaden Center, the Black Male College Explorers Program, and the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative.

Trustee Dubose requested more information regarding the Black Male College Explorers Program. Ms. McBeth shared that the program has been in existence for 30 years. Trustees Dubose and Dortch indicated that they want to know what they could do to support the program.

Trustee Lawson expressed concern regarding whether the University had the adequate support it needs in Washington, D.C. President Robinson shared that the successes for FAMU that have been realized in Washington have come from associations with groups that are lobbying on behalf of FAMU and other HBCUs, such as the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the Thurgood Marshall, 1890's Land Grant Presidents Association – a subsidiary of Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU), as well as the lobbying firm that is paid by the University. President Robinson also commended Trustee Dortch on his efforts in starting the HBCU Sustainability Summit, which brings HBCUs together to work collaboratively to address common issues.

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Mrs. McBeth reminded the Board that the Alumni is very much involved in FAMU Day at the Capital. She also shared that several trustees accompanied her to the legislature last year. She also highlighted the FAMU alumni that are in strategic positions in the legislature: Senator Bobby Powell - Senate Minority Leader Pro Tempore, Representative Ramon Alexander - House Minority Whip and Representative Kamia Brown - Minority Leader Pro Tempore. The trustees also asked Mrs. McBeth to let them know what role they can play, how they can engage legislators so FAMU can get its fair share, and to share talking points with them.

Trustee Dortch then highlighted important deadlines regarding submission of President Robinson's annual goals and evaluation and the Board of Trustees' self-evaluation.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.