

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees**



**MEETING MINUTES  
November 30, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Carter, Dortch, Grable, Harrison, Lawrence, Lawson, Mills, Moore, Perry, Reed, Washington, and Woody.

Chair Lawson then asked for a moment of silence for Ms. Emoja Mullings, a FAMU sophomore journalism major who lost her life as a result of a traffic accident. Chair Lawson thanked the former Student Government President and Trustee, Justin Bruno for his service to the University. He also welcomed to the Board of Trustees Devin Harrison, the new SGA President.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals presented public comments:

- Dr. Clyde Ashley
- Dr. Vivian Royster
- Dr. Elizabeth Davenport

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, Interim President*

Chair Lawson recognized Interim President Robinson for his report. Dr. Robinson presented a video with highlights from the past 90 days, which included the following:

- Dr. Robinson met with several members of the legislature regarding the Legislative Budget Request.
- The leadership team held a reception for the Florida Legislative Black Caucus at the Black Archives. Members expressed their continued support for initiatives at FAMU.
- The University continues to work on the plan for the medical marijuana education initiative. FAMU is responsible for educating minority communities across the state on the medicinal benefits of medical marijuana and the consequences of the unlawful use of marijuana. The initiative was featured in Black Enterprise Magazine.
- Mike Fernandez, Chairman and CEO of MBF Healthcare Partners visited FAMU. He was accompanied by Trustee Dave Lawrence. Mr. Fernandez was the special guest speaker at a forum attended by hundreds of FAMU students.

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- The University brought together researchers, students, and policymakers for discussions at its international energy, water, and food nexus summit in Orlando.
- Ms. Cara Hackett, editor-in-chief of the FAMUAN, was one of six HBCU students chosen to receive hands-on online news training with the Online News Association.
- Former FAMU President Dr. James Ammons was the University's Founder's Day speaker. During that convocation, historical markers were unveiled for the Carnegie Library, Lucy Moten Elementary School, and Gibbs Cottage.
- The University's enrollment is currently at 9918. Freshman enrollment is up about ten percent (10%) over last year.
- Over 1500 students attended the Florida Blue Florida Classic recruitment event in Orlando and another 200 attend an event held during the Tampa Classic weekend.
- Lockheed Martin donated \$50,000 for student scholarships.
- Alumni Bernard and Shirley Kinsey donated \$250,000 for band uniforms and a trailer to transport the band's equipment.
- The Marching 100 will participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade in 2019.
- On December 7, 2017, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable Sonny Perdue will host a round table discussion at FAMU entitled "Youth in Agriculture."

### **PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch*

Trustee Thomas Dortch, chair of the Presidential Leadership Committee reported that the Board of Governors granted the University's request for a waiver of BOG Regulation 1.002. The waiver allows the University to opt out of a national search for a president.

He stated that the committee met and revisited the process that it used to create the Presidential Profile. He stated that the committee held constituent town hall meetings and received feedback from students, faculty, staff and alumni regarding what characteristics they wanted in a president. The Board also met with a consultant and compiled the characteristics they thought were important. The consultant then put the information together to create the presidential profile. The Board approved the presidential profile at its September meeting. The committee members individually weighed Dr. Robinson's performance against the profile. During the committee meeting, Dr. Robinson was given an opportunity to comment about the profile. He stated that the Presidential Profile is what FAMU needs and that he feels he possesses the qualities outlined in the profile.

Trustee Dortch shared that the committee recommended that Dr. Larry Robinson be named president of Florida A&M University. He then moved that the Board of Trustees name Dr. Larry Robinson, permanent president of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence and the motion was approved through a unanimous roll call vote of the Board. Through this action, Dr. Larry Robinson became the 12<sup>th</sup> president of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

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President Robinson addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as the 12<sup>th</sup> permanent president of Florida A&M University. He said that he was humbled by the Board's action and looks forward to working with them as they move the University forward.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Lawson next recognized the Committee chairs to present their respective reports.

### **Governance**

*Trustee Harold Mills*

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Mills for the Governance Committee report. Trustee Mills indicated that the committee reviewed the Presidential Evaluation and after a short discussion, the Committee accepted it.

Next, the Committee conducted a preliminary review of President Robinson's goals. It was suggested that the number of goals should be reduced to approximately 15. Trustee Mills shared that the committee recommended that the Board provide updates and recommendations regarding the goals, to the board liaison for compilation. Trustee Mills stated that he will work with President Robinson to incorporate the feedback into the goals. This process should be finalized within the next 30 days and will be presented to the Board during a special called meeting. Trustee Mill stated that since the goals were not finalized, they should be removed from the consent agenda.

### **Presidential Leadership Committee**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch*

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Dortch to share any additional information from the Presidential Leadership Committee. Trustee Dortch indicated that the committee needs one additional meeting to wrap-up its responsibilities. Chair Lawson asked the committee to remain active through President Robinson's confirmation by the Board of Governors.

### **Academic and Student Affairs**

*Trustee Matthew Carter, Chair*

Trustee Carter reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee had six action items for approval.

- The revised request for leave without pay for Dr. Golden for fall 2017 semester and spring 2018.
- The Textbook Affordability Annual Report.

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- Revisions to Regulation 4.105 which requires that the costs of textbooks and instructional materials must be posted at least 45 days prior to the first day of class.
- Proposed Regulation 5.005, which establishes guidelines regarding freedom of expression and assembly rights and responsibilities and open platform areas.
- FAMU's Campus Safety Enhancement Plan.
- FAMU's Mental Health Counseling Enhancement Plan was presented.

It was noted for the record that, although the committee approved the recommendation to approve the mental health plan, it should be forwarded to the budget committee for funding consideration.

Trustee Carter shared that Dr. William Hudson, Jr., provided an update to the committee on the 2+2 program and Mr. Bryan Smith provided an update on the University's hazing prevention initiatives.

## **Strategic Planning and Performance Measures**

*Trustee Nicole Washington*

Trustee Washington reported that the Strategic Planning and Performance Measures Committee met on November 29, 2017 and heard updates on the following items:

- Strategic Plan Implementation - Interim Provost Rodner Wright and VP William Hudson provided an update on an initiative to restructure the University's advisement program which will be completed by June 2018.
- Performance Based Funding Model - VP Maurice Edington provided a summary of FAMU's historical performance. The committee requested that VP Edington identify a set of appropriate metrics that will serve as leading indicators of the University's ongoing progress on the Performance Metrics.
- Faculty Workload Study - VP Edington indicated that a draft of the study will be presented to the board at the March 2018 meeting.

## **Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson reported that the Special Committee on Athletics met and that the University's new athletic director, Dr. John Eason was introduced. The committee reviewed the athletic budget. He stated that the Athletics is on trend to have another balanced budget. He also shared that a search committee for a new coach has been formed.

During the Board meeting, Chair Lawson recognized AD Overton and thanked him for his service to the University. He then presented Mr. Overton with a FAMU football helmet signed by members of the Athletics Department.

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**Audit and Compliance**

*Trustee Craig Reed, Chair*

Trustee Reed reported that the Audit Committee considered several information items during its meeting. He stated that Ernst & Young performed on-site field work for the Rattler Boosters forensic audit. He said that the University is taking steps to ensure controls are put in place to correct the issues. He said that the Division is looking forward to filling the chief compliance officer position within the next few weeks. Trustee Reed also discussed how the University will manage audit findings, with there being more accountability when correcting the findings.

**Budget, Finance and Facilities**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair*

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Moore for the committee's report. Trustee Moore shared that the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee had three action item: an Amendment to the FY 2017-18 Operating Budget, 2) Income and Expenditure Statements for Auxiliary Facilities with Outstanding Revenue Bonds, and 3) CASS Amendment #1 for a Construction Manager. The Committee also heard presentations on the six (6) information items: financial status report, write-offs, project updates, food service vendor update, succession planning, and cost savings quarterly update.

Trustee Moore indicated that other items identified for future placement on the agenda include hiring an individual with expertise to lead the University's public/private partnerships; the selection of a food service vendor, acceleration of the succession planning implementation process, expand the reporting of student accounting write-offs, and increasing cost savings with a goal around 10 percent.

**Direct Support Organizations**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch was recognized for the DSO report. He indicated that the DSO Budgets for the FAMU Foundation and the FAMU National Alumni Association (NAA) were presented to the Committee. The committee accepted the NAA budget and indicated that the budget for the Foundation needed to be brought back to the committee with revisions and the Committee needed more time to review the Boosters' budget. The committee also heard updates from the National Alumni Association, the FAMU Foundation and the Rattler Boosters.

**Law**

*Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair*

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Trustee Perry reported that the special committee on the College of Law met. Dean Leroy Pernell provided updates on new measures implemented to address the bar passage rate, the ABA accreditation in spring 2019, admission requirements, and legal clinics and field placements.

Chair Lawson indicated that the committee should still plan to do a site visit. The scope of the visit should include how the Board can support the COL and make it viable in the business community by focusing on economic development/community development and organizational effectiveness. Chair Lawson asked Trustees Mills to serve the committee as a business resource. Trustee Harrison was added to the committee as a member.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Lawson identified each item on the consent agenda and asked if there were any changes. He reminded the Board that the presidential goals, the Foundation Budget, the Rattler Boosters Budget, and the Boosters By-laws were all removed from the consent agenda. Trustees Moore and Mills clarified that the campus safety plan and the mental health counseling enhancement plan should remain on the consent agenda, pending a review and confirmation by the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee that dollars exist for implementation. Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was moved for approval by Trustee Moore and seconded by Trustee Reed and the motion carried. The consent agenda included the following items:

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

- BT1 September 12, 2017 Minutes
- BT2 September 15, 2017 Minutes

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)**

- ASA1 LWOP for Dr. Amber Golden
- ASA2 Revised Textbook Affordability
- ASA3 Textbook Affordability Annual Report
- ASA4 Campus Safety Plan
- ASA5 Mental Health Counseling Enhancement Plan
- ASA6 Freedom of Expression Rights and Responsibilities

**Audit and Compliance Committee (AC)**

- AC1 Report re: Rattler Boosters

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)**

- BFF1 Amendment to FY 2017/2018 Operating Budget

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- BFF2 Approval of Income and Expenditure Statements for  
Auxiliary Facilities with Outstanding Revenue  
Bonds
- BFF3 CASS Amendment #1 for Construction Manager

**Direct Support Organizations Committee (DSO)**

- DSO1 Acceptance of FAMU National Alumni Association  
Budget

**Governance Committee**

- G1 Presidential Evaluation for 2016/2017

Next, the Board heard presentations from Dr. Tonjua Williams, president of St. Petersburg College who made a presentation to the Board regarding its 2+2 program with FAMU. Dr. Murray Gibson, dean of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering; Dr. Seth Ablordeppey, interim dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dr. Cynthia Hughes Harris, dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences all provided updates regarding their respective academic units.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.