

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

Meeting Minutes  
September 3, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Linda Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Cavazos, Harper, Lawrence, Lawson, McClinton, Moore, Perry, Reed, Washington and Woody. Trustee Dortch did not attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Col. Gregory Clark, president of the FAMU National Alumni Association, presented comments.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Next, the Board held an attorney-client closed session. Participants included the Board of Trustees, President Robinson and the University's attorneys.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, President*

Chair Lawson recognized President Robinson for his report. President Robinson's report highlighted several university activities and achievements:

- The 2020 FTIC fall cohort enrolled with a 3.67 average GPA, an increase of .11 points compared to 3.56 in fall 2019. This cohort included 1,032 new FTICs and 205 new Florida College System AA transfers. The University's total enroll was 8,872.
- Provost Edington is making a presentation to the Board of Governors during its September 16, 2020 meeting regarding the licensure improvements plans for nursing and law.
- FAMU was named by Cosmopolitan Magazine as one of the top 50 beautiful campuses.
- FAMU is working with the Thurgood Marshall Foundation/McKinsey Group to conduct an in-depth program portfolio analysis, looking at areas such as our degree programs occupational opportunities, student interest/satisfaction, and future trends that our program offerings remain relative.
- FAMU was named one of the top 10 HBCUs Making a Difference in the World by College Magazine; and,
- The University was named one of 12 members of the 2020 class of Excellence in Assessment designees, a national program that recognizes colleges and universities conducting a comprehensive assessment of student learning outcomes as a means to drive internal improvement and advance student success.

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- Dr. Weatherford, his team, and faculty increased the University’s research productivity with over \$52M in new research funding in 2019-20. The University also had eight patents issued by the United States Patents Office.
- The University continues its efforts in the Reopening/Campus Re-Engagement. Significant investments and enhancements have been made to ensure that a safe and socially distanced environment is created.
- The University continues to invest resources to support strategic priorities in the areas of student success, academic program support, security and technology upgrades and institutional operational support and will invest over \$13.3M in 2020-21.
- The softball field is receiving a major upgrade, with a new state-of-the-art playing surface. The Amphitheater is scheduled for occupancy in October; the Dining Hub in November facilities, and the CASS building in December.
- FAMU faculty member Dr. Eunsook Lee, public health professor in the College of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Public Health was awarded a five-year, \$2.4M, R01 Federal Grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to research Parkinson disease;

**RE-OPENING PLAN:**

Next, Rica Calhoun shared an update regarding the status of the Re-opening Plan. She indicated that the plan was in the implementation phase and it is being followed by the university community.

**PRESIDENT’S COMPENSATION:**

Chair Lawson offered a motion to table the discussion regarding President Robinson’s compensation until January 2021. Trustee Perry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**HBCU CAPITAL FINANCING MODIFICATION RESOLUTION:**

Vice President Alan Robertson asked the Board to consider a resolution regarding the deferral of the University’s payments for the HBCU Capital Financing. A special provision was included in the CARES Act, that provided for the deferral. Trustee Perry moved approval of the measure. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried, unanimously.

**ANNUAL EQUITY REPORT:**

Mrs. Carrie Gavin was recognized to provide the annual equity report. Each year the University is required to submit an equity report to the Board of Governors. Prior to that submission, it must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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Trustee Woody moved approval and Trustee Reed seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no opposition. Highlights from the report are provided below:

- Full Time Florida Community College transfers increased from 684 to 716 between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019
- Bachelor’s Degrees awarded increased from 1258 to 1444 between academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019
- Master’s Degrees awarded increased from 303 to 311 between academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) REPORT:**

Trustee/Student Government Association (SGA) president Xavier McClinton updated the Board on the SGA. He shared that the SGA instituted a voter engagement and education program this fall. The SGA is also looking to improve their communications through an SGA newsletter, an enhanced website and a television show. Trustee McClinton ended his presentation with a note that SGA elections will occur on September 14, 2020.

**FACULTY SENATE REPORT:**

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Cavazos for the Faculty Senate report. Trustee Cavazos informed that Board that during the summer, the FAMU faculty received their certification for on-line teaching. She stated that faculty and students from the Institute of Public Health continue to help with the University’s COVID-19 testing site. Faculty members were also involved with the creation of the University’s re-opening plan. Trustee Cavazos shared that the Faculty Senate is beginning its review and revision of the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws and the Faculty Handbook.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Academic and Student Affairs**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair*

Trustee Washington reported that the Committee recommended approval of tenure upon appointment for Deidre Keller and licensure passage rate improvement plans for law, nursing, physical therapy and pharmacy. The Committee also heard updates on admissions, enrollment and fall instruction.

**Audit and Compliance**

*Trustee Craig Reed, Chair*

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Reed for the Audit and Compliance Committee report.

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He reported that the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer Rica Calhoun presented the Office of Compliance and Ethics annual report. VP Maleszewski and Director of Audit Deidre Melton presented several informational items and office updates.

**Budget, Finance and Facilities**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair*

Trustee Moore reported that the carry-forward budget, was recommended for approval by the committee. The approval included approval of the Fixed Capital Outlay budget.

She also shared that the Committee recommended approval of the housing loan deferral. Vice President Robertson reviewed the details of the HBCU housing loan deferral with the Committee. The 18-month deferment will temporary postponement of principal and interest payments and is through the HBCU Capital Financing Program.

The Committee heard presentations on the University's financial status, COVID-19 Expenditures to Date, the inclusion of minorities and women owned business. The Committee also heard a brief update regarding the opening of the 700- bed residence hall and on the Duke Energy / Brooksville project. Dr. Wilder provided an update on Housing Facilities.

**Direct Support Organizations**

*Trustee David Lawrence*

Trustee Lawrence shared that following updates regarding the University's Direct Support organizations:

- The FAMU Foundation Investment Portfolio balance at June 30, 2020, is over \$123.5M, and the Endowment balance at June 30, 2020, is over \$95M.
- The Annual National Alumni Convention planned for November of 2020 in Orlando has been cancelled due to the pandemic; a Founder's Day Fundraising Campaign will be launched on October 3, 2020; and an Alumni Virtual Town Hall Meeting was held regarding the Rattler Reopening.
- The FAMU Rattler Boosters initiated a fundraising goal of \$159K to replace the roof on the Galimore-Powell Field House. It also rolled out two new Rattler Boosters Membership levels and will be rescheduling the Virtual All Sports Kick-Off Fundraising event.

Trustee Lawrence stated that President Larry Robinson and Industry Cluster Chair, Cheryl Harris, will be hosting a virtual symposium featuring the Chairman of the Microsoft Board, John Thompson, on September 23 at 4 p.m.

The Committee heard a presentation by Tom Zydel, Senior Strategic Leader with EAB. EAB is University Advancement's alumni and friends fundraising partner.

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**Governance**

*Trustee Belvin Perry*

Trustee Perry reported that the Committee heard a presentation from General Counsel Denise Wallace and recommended approval of FAMU Regulation 1.022, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Prohibition, Formal Hearing Process, in accordance with the Board of Governors Regulations Adoption Procedure.

**Special Committee on Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson shared that the Athletic Department was making strides. VP Gosha shared that the Department is reducing its budget by 40%, which was necessary because of the cancellation of fall football. He also provided updates on a proposed MEAC -spring season and highlighted enhancements to the sports facilities.

**Special Committee on the College of Law**

*Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair*

Trustee Perry shared that Provost Edington addressed the Committee and reported that a program improvement plan was being finalized for the College. The Board of Governors required the submission of the plan.

Dean Keller provided updates on perceptions and Insights after first 60 days; strategies to improve bar passage rates; student demographic data; employment data, externships, student evaluations of faculty and the external consultant.

Trustee Perry stated that the committee agreed to hold more regular meetings.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chair Lawson reviewed the Consent Agenda. Trustee Moore moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried, without opposition.

The consent agenda included the following items:

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

- BT1 June 4, 2020 Minutes
- BT2 August 6, 2020 Minutes
- BT3 August 14, 2020 Minutes

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

ASA1 Tenure Upon Appointment for Deidrè Keller

ASA2 Licensure Pass Rate Improvement Plans

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

BFF1 Carry-Forward Budget

**Governance Committee (G)**

G1 FAMU Regulation 1.022, Title IX Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Prohibition, Formal Hearing Process, in accordance with the Board of Governors Regulations Adoption Procedure, after the thirty-day notice period.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned.