

**Summary Minutes**  
**FAMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2011**

Chairman Solomon Badger called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Chairman Badger asked Attorney Fuse-Hall to call the roll and the following trustees were present: Chairman Badger, Trustee Torey Alston, Trustee Kelvin Lawson, Trustee Breyon Love, Trustee Spurgeon McWilliams, Trustee Rufus Montgomery, Trustee Narayan Persaud, Trustee Belinda Shannon, and Karl White as well as Trustee Marjorie Turnbull and Trustee Richard Dent (via telephone). A quorum was established.

Chairman Badger recognized and thanked Dean Pernell and his staff for their hospitality at College of Law. Dean Pernell offered welcoming remarks to the members of the Board and the President on behalf of the faculty, staff and over 700 students.

The chairman asked for approval of the summary minutes for the October 27, 2011, and September 30, 2011 board of Trustee meetings. Trustee Persaud offered corrections to the September meeting minutes. The corrections will be noted and revised minutes will be published. Trustee Alston moved approval with corrections. Trustee Love seconded the motion and it carried.

The Chairman reminded members of the public that the sign-in sheet “will be outside, and you may sign up for public comment while the board is in closed session. At this time, I recognize Attorney McKnight for the statutory explanation for going into closed session.”

Attorney McKnight cited the statutes which permitted the board to meet in closed session to discuss a matter regarding collective bargaining.

Trustee White moved that the board convene in closed session and it was seconded by Trustee Alston. The motion carried.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Badger noted that the board engaged the services of Sniffen & Spellman to investigate a whistleblower complaint. A final report of that investigation was sent to each member of the board. As a result of the final report, Dr. Charles O'Duor, Vice President for Audit and Compliance, resigned and another auditor was relieved of his duties. The chairman recognized the President for an update to the board on the status of the Division of Audit and Compliance as well as his President's Report.

### **President's Report**

The President presented information about the significant employment actions that transpired as a result of the Sniffen & Spellman investigation and findings related to the anonymous whistle-blower complaints filed against the Division of Audit and Compliance. Accretive Solutions—Jacksonville, Inc. has been hired to conduct a university wide risk assessment, a quality self-assessment and gap analysis in order to effect appropriate actions in this office as addressed in a joint letter dated November 30, 2011, and signed by the chair and president. The firm will present a formal update of its work to this board at the scheduled meeting in February.

One critical area that the University seeks the board's guidance and it concerns the interim management of the Division of Audit and Compliance while a national search is underway to fill the Vice President position for the division. It was suggested that a qualified individual from within the Division of Administrative and Financial Services or Accretive Solutions serve in this leadership capacity during this time period. The interim person will be governed by the FAMU Board of Trustees Audit and Compliance Committee in accordance with the audit charter. Accretive Solutions will also develop a corrective action plan which will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees and will be forwarded to the Board of Governors as they have requested. Specifically, that person as the interim Chief Audit Executive and University Compliance Officer will report functionally

to the Audit Committee and the Chair of that committee and will report administratively to the president. The president sought the board's direction.

Trustee Jennings inquired about the interim replacement and Trustee White noted that this process was his suggested approach. Trustee Alston stated, "I think it sends the right message that we find someone from the administrative ranks to lead this office." Trustee Lawson inquired about the cost of hiring an outside firm to manage the Office of Audit and Compliance. Trustee White responded that we need people with the correct expertise. He assured the board that there would not be anyone engaged without informing the full board.

Trustee Persaud asked if the former Vice President for Audit and Compliance was placed on administrative leave during the investigation. Attorney McKnight responded that he was not.

There was more discussion regarding the costs for an outside firm, the time it will take to get the office "back on track," and if there are any pending actions as a result of these audits. Trustee Turnbull noted that since these were internal audits there was no impact on the "clean" audits the University has received. Trustee White said, "That is correct. This did not alter the clean audits that the University received." He asked that his remarks be noted for the record.

President Ammons introduced two new members of the Leadership Team—Dr. Larry Robinson, who will serve as the Special Assistant to the President, and Dr. Thomas Haynes, who is the Vice President for University Relations.

The President recognized Provost Cynthia Hughes Harris, who informed the board that it had received unofficial notification that the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) may place the Cardiopulmonary Program on probation. This is noted because the three-year licensure exam passage rate fall below the standard and CoARC requires that 80% of graduating student must take the licensure exam, and FAMU was found to be out of compliance. The Provost noted that leadership changes occurred last year and the new person has moved the school in many positive directions. She will continue to monitor this matter.

Trustee Langston noted that he requested information on the status of **all** licensure programs. The Provost noted that such information would be assembled and shared with the board. Trustee Shannon thanked the Provost for the early warning; however, she inquired about students not taking the exam at the requisite time and the need to know the status of any program where its accreditation is threatened. Trustee White encouraged the University to change from “being reactive to a proactive stance.”

Chairman Badger asked the Provost to prepare a corrective action plan and distribute it to the board before the next meeting, and to include Trustee Jennings’ request for the dates that accrediting bodies meet. Trustee Dent urged accountability and proactive reviews for all academic programs. Trustee Lawson noted that the action plan provided by the provost during the committee meeting “is moving us in the right direction,” but, he added that a self-assessment is needed for the board to understand the status and not have “surprises” about accreditations.

President Ammons thanked members of the FAMU Board of Trustees, Chairman Badger, students, faculty, staff and alumni for the support provided as we address issues surrounding the Robert Champion incident. He provided an update regarding the measures being taken by the University and how we as a community can move forward together to address the issue of hazing.

First, the president acknowledged how difficult this situation has been for the Champion family and the FAMU family. President Ammons thanked everyone for their expressed sympathies. He assured everyone that FAMU remains a safe campus and one that maintains its commitment to “Excellence with Caring.”

President Ammons informed the board that as a result of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) recommendation, Dr. Julian White, director of bands, was placed on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of the investigation and rescinded the dismissal of four (4) students who received disciplinary action, regarding the hazing incident with Mr. Champion.

Based on a letter from Professor Robert Griffin, I asked the staff to go meet with the band before the Florida Classic. He noted that letters were received by his

office after the date noted on the letters. “I want the Board to understand that we take this occurrence very seriously. Once allegations are received it is immediately sent to the FAMU Police or the Tallahassee Police Department if the incident occurs off-campus.”

To address the crisis the University is:

- Cooperating with the investigations being conducted regarding Mr. Robert’s death by the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, the FDLE and the Florida Board of Governors (BOG). As far as I know, the BOG investigation is still on.
- Providing grief counselors to students who are dealing with the loss of Mr. Champion;
- Heightening anti-hazing awareness among students, members of the band, the faculty and staff and alumni;
- Appointed Dr. Valencia Matthews as interim chair of the Department of Music to maintain the academic integrity of the department. He noted that the Music Department is continuing its activities;
- Music Department will remain and all scholarships honored for those who are maintaining academic standards and not involved in hazing; and
- Developed a webpage to provide publically released information about the Robert Champion incident to our supporters, locally and outside of Tallahassee.

President Ammons said:

We will move forward together. You have my commitment to keep the lines of communication will remain open and active between the Board of Trustees and me. Further, we will revise our reporting to alert the board promptly of any allegations of hazing.

The President completed his report with an update about:

- The receipt of a \$15 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to meet the agency’s workforce needs in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics that support NOAA’s mission;

- A partnership with the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University to establish a first of its kind medical Honors Program between the two institutions;
- There is disappointing news about the denial of the University’s application to **Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)**, seeking our initial accreditation for the School of Business and Industry;
- The stabilized leadership at the College of Law; and
- Two upcoming campus events—the annual toy drive and winter commencement on December 16, 2011, where Trustee Persaud will represent the Board of Trustees.

The Chairman thanked President Ammons for his report. I’m sure you have absorbed all the comments that you heard yesterday; but, I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the FAMU Family suffered a loss, we are grieving; but, we honor the life of Mr. Champion by remembering that we are the “College of Love and Charity” and our motto is “Excellence with Caring.”

Trustee Rufus Montgomery moved that the board suspend the rules to discuss a matter that has garnered national attention for the University. Trustee Langston seconded the motion and it carried.

Trustee Montgomery noted a list of 15 items that have occurred during his brief time on the board and he questioned the president’s ability to lead the University during this crisis and proffered that the President be placed on administrative leave. See the attached list.

Trustee Shannon appreciated Trustee Montgomery’s passion, noting that there is a process for dealing with issues regarding the president’s leadership, the president’s reaction to a tragedy, maintaining the operations this board, and recommending administrative leave for the president. Many of the matters noted “were not issues of Dr. Ammons but of this board.” She questioned why the board would place someone on administrative leave based on allegations?

Trustee Turnbull also appreciated the fervor of Trustee Montgomery’s statement; but, noted that each trustee had a role to play. Trustee Langston supported the request for administrative leave because he is part of the investigation and could influence the outcome if he remained. Trustee Love said, we “must be clear, the president had to act swiftly.” He asked how are we going to provide leadership.

Trustee Lawson noted that key facts of this discussion are unknown at this time. There is repair work that needs to occur; but, “we need facts first.”

Trustee McWilliams disagreed with Trustee Montgomery regarding the disciplinary actions noted in the FDLE letter. He saw no need to discipline the president. He noted that the evaluation of the President is the appropriate time for addressing many of the issue raised. Trustee Persaud noted that it’s important to weight the institutional interest against the individual interest.

Trustee Dent agreed with Trustee McWilliams, noting that issues around Mr. Champion’s death is different from issues of leadership. February is the designated time for the president’s evaluation. Secondly, regarding timely communications with the board, Trustee Dent agreed with Trustee Montgomery. “The chairman doesn’t have the same freedom as the president to speak with board members. He noted that if the board places the president on administrative leave:

- What are the next steps
- Creates a leadership void
- Board would have to hear that compelling evidence that board members’ responsibility is compromised by non-action during the leadership void.

Trustee Dent noted that “if we have no solid plan, then we need to think about this recommendation.”

Trustee Jennings noted that the board should separate performance from the Robert Champion matter; however, he supported placing the president on administrative leave.

Trustee Turnbull noted that she is a very deliberative person; decisions should be based on informed facts. She noted that it’s difficult in the early stages of an investigation. She noted that the Orange County Sheriff during the Anti-hazing workshop noted that FAMU was cooperating fully. She suggested that the board have a solid plan. “Our efforts should be to stop hazing on the campus.”

Trustee White agreed with separating performance from the circumstances surrounding this event; permit the president to absolve himself of any doubt; and noted that there was no discussion about what would be put in place if he was placed on leave.

Trustee Alston noted that he had listened to all the comments and asked what is the next step. “All are emotional on this matter; let’s take a 10 minute break.”

Chairman Badger noted that he was not going to speak. He noted the constraints of the Sunshine Law; however, he noted that the earlier board meeting was cancelled under the advice of counsel. He noted the conscious efforts to communicate with the board throughout this matter. "I cancelled the meeting. I asked the President to cease and desist with the Task Force."

Trustee Montgomery noted that we have to work with respect. "We have lost our leverage in public opinion. He moved that the board return to its regular session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Persaud and it carried.

The board took a ten minute recess.

After the recess, Chairman Badger recognized Trustee Dent for the report of the Budget and Finance Committee.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Budget and Finance***

Trustee Dent noted that the Budget and Finance Committee had three (3) action items and several informational items.

The Committee heard from Vice President Hardee who presented three amendments to the operating budget.

- **Amendment I:** Additional budget authority is requested in the amount of \$1,984,094. This additional budget authority is needed to post the June 30, 2011, General Revenue Carry Forward balance to the University Reserve account.
- **Amendment II:** Additional budget authority in the amount of \$377,915 is requested in the Auxiliary Enterprises Trust Fund to cover operating expenditures for the on-line distance education programs through the 2012 spring semester. Revenues from fees will be used to cover these expenditures.
- **Amendment III:** Additional budget authority in the amount of \$756,091 is requested in the Student Activities budget entity for the following:

- **\$489,307** - to cover the lease costs of two buses for SGA recruitment, student government, and general student use.
- **\$186,784** - to cover funding requests for organizations that were not funded initially during the 2011-12 budget process.
- **\$80,000** - to cover expenses for renovating the lounge areas in Truth and McGuinn residential halls and Christmas for Katrina victims.

**Trustee Dent moved that the Board of Trustees approve the amendments to the FY 2011-2012 Operating Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee White and it carried.**

Next, the Committee heard from Vice President Hardee and Vice President William Hudson, Jr., on the proposed establishment of new fees for the College of Law and the School of Allied Health as well as an increase in the Student Health fee. The University is requesting the establishment of test preparations fees for the College of Law and the School of Allied Health. Once the Board of Trustees approves these new fees, the University can submit the new fee proposals to the Board of Governors for approval at their meeting in January 2012.

- The College of Law (COL) is requesting the establishment of a Bar Review Preparation Fee in the amount of \$2400. The purpose of this fee is to increase test preparation through substantive bar review courses for COL students. This fee will be required as part of the curriculum offered by the COL for the purpose of enhancing bar examination test taking skills and participation in the COL Bar Exam Success Training (B.E.S.T.) skills development program. The fee will only be charged during the student's final year of law school.
- The School of Allied Health Sciences is requesting the establishment of an Examination Preparation Fee in the amount of \$200. This fee will provide the resources for students to acquire entry-level competencies that enable them to successfully pass the national physical therapist examination as well as ensure that program graduates have the knowledge and exposure to various equipment and technology used by contemporary therapist as they enter the workforce. This fee will be assessed when a student enrolls in PHT 696: Professional PT Practice.

- Additionally, the University is requesting an increase of \$1.49 in the Student Health Fee. Currently the University charges a block (or flat) fee of \$59 per semester for each student. Most SUS campuses charge on a per credit hour basis. The current block fee converts to \$5.42 per credit hour and the request is to increase this fee to \$6.91 per credit hour. More importantly, the Counseling and Student Health Centers have seen significant increases over the last three (3) years in the number of students served for counseling related issues. The recommended ratio of counselors to students is 1 therapist for every 1,500 students. FAMU would need 8.7 therapists to meet this accreditation guideline; we currently have 3.5 counseling staff positions. The revenue generated from this fee increase would be used to staff our counseling center to meet the counseling needs of our students.

**Trustee Dent moved that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the test preparations fees for the College of Law and the School of Allied Health as well as the Student Health Fee increase. Trustee Love seconded the motion and it carried.**

Next the Committee heard from Attorney Avery McKnight who presented the action item for the approval of additional budget to pay the final invoice from Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. for services rendered in the Division of Audit and Compliance whistle-blower investigation.

Several members of the committee expressed concern about the University exceeded the \$20,000 that was authorized for this investigation. The consensus of the committee is that there needs to be a process in place for the Board to approve any increases in budget authority given before that budget authority is exceeded.

**Trustee Dent moved that the Board of Trustees approve the additional budget in the amount of \$33,441.31 to pay the final invoice from Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. for services rendered in the Division of Audit and Compliance whistle-blower investigation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Langston and it carried.**

As for the informational items, the Committee heard from Vice President Teresa Hardee who provided an update on the results from the recent revenue estimating conference for General Revenue, Lottery and PECO. There is an anticipated \$2 billion shortfall in General Revenue, the Lottery has increased slightly and no

funds are expected for PECO projects. Vice President Hardee also provided an update on the FY 2011-12 operating budget and provided an overview of the two (2) contracts over \$100,000. She also noted that the University will launch a mobile app later this month that will allow students to access their accounts.

Trustee Love recommended that controls be put in place to prevent exceeding the approved amount. He asked the Budget and Finance Committee address this at the next meeting.

### *Academic Affairs*

Chairman Badger recognized Trustee Turnbull for the report of the Academic Affairs Committee. She noted that there were three (3) action items and three (3) informational items.

The Committee heard from Dr. Gita Pitter, who presented the University's Annual Report, which is mandated by the Board of Governors. Dr. Pitter explained that the report provides dash board data on key performance indicators, reports the progress on work plan goals, reports on targets set by the Board of Trustees, and highlights the University's significant achievements for the past year.

**Trustee Turnbull moved that the Board of Trustees approve the University's Annual Report and it was properly seconded. The motion carried.**

Next, the Committee heard from Provost Hughes Harris regarding the re-naming of the College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture or CESTA to the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences. Faculty members and students within the College provided input about possible names. The new name more accurately reflects the programs and mission of the college.

**Trustee Turnbull moved that the Board of Trustees approve re-naming the College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture (CESTA) to the "The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences."**

Then, Provost Hughes Harris presented information regarding the tenure-upon-appointment of Dr. Aretha Hill, an associate professor of accounting in the School of Business and Industry. Dr. Hill had previously been tenured at the University and was recruited back to FAMU to satisfy the faculty needs for specialized accreditation. Her tenure is supported by the School of Business and Industry, Dean Friday-Stroud, the University Tenure and Promotion Committee, Provost

Hughes Harris, and President Ammons. The Committee also suggested examining, for the future, the ability to grant tenure upon hire for situations such as this.

**Trustee Turnbull moved that the Board of Trustees approve tenure-upon-appointment for Dr. Aretha Hill. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawson and it carried.**

The Academic Affairs Committee had three (3) informational items to share with the Board. At the September meeting, the Board requested that each of the programs that required licensure, submit an action plan to address licensure preparation. Dr. Hughes Harris presented an update on licensure preparation action plans that were submitted by Pharmacy, Nursing, Law, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Education. Each plan included the following information:

- Most recent passage rate for first-time-takers;
- Licensure passage rate target set by BOT;
- Strategies implemented prior to matriculation;
- Strategies instituted during matriculation in program;
- Strategies instituted prior to graduation;
- Analysis of demographic and academic factors associated with successful and unsuccessful students;
- Actions resulting from analysis; and
- Strategies to increase first-time passage rates for students immediately upon graduation.

In addition, Provost Hughes Harris indicated that the University has taken a number of proactive steps toward providing additional support to the academic programs that require licensure. She stated that the University is making sure that the units have the financial support that they need to ensure student success. Also, the University has re-allocated funds from existing budgets to provide additional funding. Two new regular positions and two OPS positions were funded for the College of Law because of the need for additional personnel in the bar preparation programs. The Committee was supportive of the plans and the University's actions. The committee members requested that the goals on the action plans should be the goals that the BOT set so that the aim is high. They also noted that some action plans were very comprehensive and the others should be revised to be at a similar level. Provost Hughes Harris agreed to keep the Committee abreast of the progress of each program.

On another matter, Provost Hughes Harris indicated that the University is making steady progress with the teach-out plan from implementing the Restructuring Plan. She stated that Deans will submit reports each semester and will monitor students in the teach-out to ensure the timely completion of their degrees. Academic maps have been provided to all students who received notification. The University will continue to monitor student progress and to update the Board of the status of the teach-out process. The Provost noted that approximately 200 students are involved in this process.

Finally, Provost Hughes Harris presented an update on the Board of Trustees goals within the Division of Academic Affairs.

#### Goal 1 – Meet Accreditation Standards of Select Disciplines

Three programs were visited by their accrediting bodies since the September meeting.

- BASE programs was visited by ABET – no deficiencies found;
- Teacher Education Programs were visited by NCATE – no deficiencies found; and
- The University’s Animal Care Facilities were visited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care – No deficiencies found.
- Journalism, Architecture and Law will host accreditation visits in February and March 2012.

The School of Business and Industry received final confirmation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), that it was denied initial accreditation from that organization. SBI will re-apply to AACSB in three years and will begin the process of seeking initial accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). This process also takes three (3) years. This may result in SBI being accredited by two accrediting bodies. Committee members discussed the primary reasons for the AACSB decision, which revolved around research productivity of faculty. They also discussed the need to prepare the unique strengths of SBI while meeting the accreditation requirements.

#### Goal 2 – Increase Number of Distance Education Programs and Students

The University will offer general education courses, online, this semester. It

is also continuing recruitment efforts for the online programs and anticipates that the Master's of Public Health and the MBA programs will each enroll 25 new students. The University is also looking at how it will proceed with its current distance education provider. Committee members commended the progress in distance learning and indicated a desire to hear from distance learning students at a future meeting.

Goal 3 – Increase Licensure Passage Rates – This was discussed earlier.

Goal 4 – Increase Number of Enrolled Research Doctoral Students

The University is continuing its aggressive on-campus recruitment efforts and is encouraging the utilization of the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship program to recruit new doctoral students. The University will host its second on-campus “Graduate Recruitment Fair” in February, 2012 to recruit undergraduate students enrolled at FAMU into FAMU’s graduate programs.

Goal 5 - Increase Number of Research Doctoral Graduates by 10% Annually

The University will continue to monitor academic policies and student performance, to ensure that the doctoral students are progressing efficiently towards graduation.

Goal 6 – Increase Number of Endowed Professors

The University is working toward increasing the University’s endowed professorships. Pharmacy has advertised the “Biomedical Research Eminent Scholar Chair”. SBI is preparing to advertise the “Sybil C. Mobley Endowed Chair” and the College of Education is preparing to advertise the “Carrie Meek Chair.” Committee members recommended that the Provost and the Foundation explore ways in which to fill the established chairs. This may include contacting donors regarding the possibility of combining some of the endowed monies in order to have sufficient funds to successfully fill the positions.

In closing the Provost noted that the University had responded comprehensively and expeditiously to the request from Governor Rick Scott to the Presidents of the State University System for information. The Board members received a CD with both the narrative and the appendices sent to the Governor.

### ***Trustee-Student Affairs***

Chairman Badger recognized Trustee Love for the report of the Trustee-Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Love noted that the committee had one (1) item for action and several informational items.

The Committee heard a presentation from Vice President William Hudson, Jr., regarding the Board of Governors amended Regulation 6.002, about students admitted “through the profile assessment at each University” and approved by the Board of Trustees. After discussing the data of FAMU applicants and plans to work with these students via the Office of University Retention, the Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve enrolling a maximum of 1500 profile admits assessors within the category of First-Time-in-College students for 202-2013.

**Trustee Love moved approval of the maximum of 1500 profile admits for 2012-2013. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alston and it carried.**

Trustee Jennings inquired about the discussion in December to reduce this number. Vice President Hudson responded that the numbers have been reduced. Trustee McWilliams inquired about what warrants a “profile admit” and asked for disaggregated data along the various criteria for a profile admit. Vice President Hudson noted that this could occur.

The Committee heard from Trustee Love about the student activities related to Homecoming, SGA appointments, voter registration drives, and “Set Fridays” in conjunction with the Department of Athletics. All events have been successful. The Committee members commended Trustee Love for his leadership in the Anti-Hazing initiative among the students. The recent student forum involved 1500 students, including representatives from every recognized student organization on campus that signed Anti-Hazing pledges.

Vice President Hudson, Jr., updated the Committee on the Board of Trustees goals regarding the initiative on First- and Second-Year Student Success, which includes strategies for improved advising and enrollment.

Trustee Alston then asked for a vote to waive the 2/3 vote required to amend the bylaws, Article 5, Section 5.3: Emergency Meetings. The motion was properly seconded and it carried.

Trustee Alston proffered the following language (underlined below) as amended to the current bylaws:

5.3 EMERGENCY MEETINGS – Emergency meetings of the Board or its Committees shall be called by the Board Chair or upon the request of seven (7) members of the Board, upon no less than twenty-four (24) hours notice, whenever, in the opinion of the Board Chair or seven (7) members of the Board, an issue requires immediate Board action to the Corporate Secretary. The Board Chair shall notify the Corporate Secretary of such emergency meetings. The Corporate Secretary shall immediately serve verbal or written notice upon each Trustee, stating the date, time, and place of the meeting and the purpose for which the meeting has been called. No other business will be transacted at the meeting, unless additional emergency matters are agreed to by the majority of the Trustees in attendance. The minutes of each emergency meeting will reflect the manner and method by which notice of such emergency meeting was provided to each Trustee and will state the actions taken and the specific facts and reasons for calling the emergency meeting.

**Trustee Montgomery offered a friendly amendment to the motion, adding language to notify the full board upon the first and subsequent requests to seven members for the emergency meeting.”**

**The friendly amendment was accepted by Trustee Alston. The motion was seconded by Trustee Love. The Chairman then asked Attorney Fuse-Hall to read the motion as modified. The motion carried.**

Following the Committee Reports, Chairman Badger recognized Trustee Shannon for an update on the contract to hire a crisis communication firm as discussed in the Anti-hazing Workshop on Wednesday. The staff updated the board that an emergency exception would permit the University to hire immediately a public relations firm to assist the Board of Trustees in formulating and implementing a crisis communications plan.

**Trustee Shannon moved that the University utilize the emergency exception of the procurement process to immediately hire a public relations firm to provide guidance and support in matters related to the Champion case. Trustee White seconded the motion.**

Attorney Self inquired about the exceptions regarding diversity. Trustee Shannon asked that the record reflect that “we secure professional services that reflect our commitment to diversity.”

Trustee Jennings noted that “It was inappropriate for a statement from someone from the Ron Sachs firm be made publicly.” Trustee McWilliams noted that the board has talked about the firm and people are qualified and ready to go. “I think that needs to be our focus.” Trustee Montgomery shared Trustee Jennings concern. “Before we permit comments, then we need to be consulted about what’s going on.” He noted it could appear as if person was engaged before the presentation to the board. Trustee Alston noted that it appears this process appears to circumvent the state procurement laws. He noted that he is against the process.

The vote was called and the motion carried. Trustee Montgomery called for a division of the house motion and the trustees provided a roll call (voice) vote as follows:

- Voting for the motion: Badger, Dent, Jennings, Love, McWilliams, Persaud, Shannon, and Turnbull.
- Voting against the motion: Alston, Langston, and Montgomery.

The motion carried.

**Trustee Lawson moved that the board permit the Chief Financial Officer (Ms. Teresa Hardee) for 30 days, to select a firm within that 30-day period, to allow the process to proceed at soon as possible and not to exceed the next 72 hours. It was seconded by Trustee Langston.**

There was much discussion. Trustee Alston asked the CFO to secure a second quote for a 30-day period. Trustee McWilliams asked for a specific time frame. Mrs. Sharon Saunders responded that the goal is to “have someone by tomorrow.” She asked the board if there were any firms that the University should not consider for a short-term basis?

Trustee Lawson noted that the board needed to move expeditiously.

**The motion carried with two nay votes (Jennings and Alston).**

**Trustee Alston moved that the Board expresses its intent that we need a crisis communication plan and with a professional firm. The motion was seconded by Jennings and it carried unanimously.**

**Trustee Montgomery moved that national and state-wide issues be added to the board agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alston and it carried.**

**Trustee Montgomery moved that the President be placed on administrative leave. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jennings.**

**Trustee Shannon disagreed with the motion. Trustee Love noted that this action would be disheartening to the students and 13,000 students would be unhappy. Trustee Alston noted that based on the gap such action would create, “this is a warning. I think this board should send a message” and he offered a substitute motion.**

**The substitute motion was to publicly reprimand the president for his handling of the events surrounding the Robert Champion matter. Trustee Jennings seconded the substitute motion.**

The vote was called and the motion carried. Trustee Montgomery called for a division of the house motion and the trustees provided a roll call (voice) vote as follows:

- Voting for the motion: Alston, Badger, Dent, Jennings, Lawson, McWilliams, Persaud, and White.
- Voting against the motion: Langston, Love, Montgomery, Shannon and Turnbull.

The motion carried.

Trustee Alston asked the president for better communication with the board and asked that he not fire Dr. White because that action brought negative light to the University.

Chairman Badger noted that the staff will provide information about the status of the investigation. Trustee Jennings asked that the President and Dr. White refrain from speaking about the matter in the media.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Chairman Badger asked** Attorney Fuse-Hall to call the names of anyone signed up for Public Comment. He reminded speakers that there is a two (2) minute limit for the speakers and Attorney Fuse-Hall has time cards to remind speakers of their time.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Davenport: Thanks for approving the UFF Agreement**
- **Ms. Nandi Riley**
- **Mr. Tommy Mitchell: Support of the National Alumni Association**
- **Ms. Keisha Robinson**

Chairman Badger asked for any final comments. Trustee Dent asked about the role of Dr. Robinson in relation to the current Leadership Team members. If there is no further business then this meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
[Rosalind Fuse-Hall](#)  
Rosalind Fuse-Hall  
Assistant Corporate Secretary

