

# FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

## Board of Trustees Executive Committee

### Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2026

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Deveron Gibbons, Chair*

Chair Gibbons called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Trustees Brown, Crossman, Gainey, Gibbons, Jones, Washington, and White established a quorum. Chair Gibbons informed that the committee meeting was called to streamline the April 15 meeting to ensure timely preparation and discussion of agenda items. He emphasized the goal of having fully prepared materials rather than discussing incomplete items, ensuring the meeting remains efficient while maintaining public accessibility.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The meeting opened with the public comment period, during which no individuals signed up to speak.

#### **COMMITTEE OVERVIEWS FOR THE APRIL 15 BOARD MEETING**

##### **Academic and Student Affairs**

Trustee Washington provided updates on two Academic and Student Affairs items: sabbatical and professional leave activity, and the forthcoming accountability plan. She explained that the updated accountability plan will incorporate new focus areas requested by the Board of Governors, particularly within SUS areas of expertise such as health and workforce readiness, business innovation, and engineering and design.

She also noted upcoming adjustments to median wage data and Programs of Strategic Emphasis, highlighting that the list of PSE programs will be reduced from approximately 800 to 160 majors. Additionally, Trustee Washington informed the group that this will be the final year reporting on FCSAA transfer metrics, as the measurement standard will shift to internships moving forward.

##### **Audit, Risk and Compliance**

Trustee White reported that the University remains actively engaged in the CFO search process, which has required a significant amount of time and attention. As there were no pressing matters before the committee at this stage, he noted that the committee had no additional updates to present.

##### **Budget, Finance and Facilities**

Trustee Gainey reported that the April 15 Board meeting will focus on two primary items. The first is the \$18.5 million renovation project for the top two floors of the Chemical and Biological Research Laboratory, which will be recommended for approval as funding is currently available. He noted that the total project cost is \$35.4 million, and the University has \$22.3 million on hand.

The second agenda item will be a banking resolution to be presented by Attorney Avery McKnight.

In response to Trustee Washington's inquiry regarding the project's funding status, Trustee Gainey explained that \$14.3 million of the current \$18.5 million allocation comes from PECO funds, while \$7.9 million is supported by an NIH grant. COO Lawson added that if the additional \$13.1 million requested in the CIP Plan is not approved, the University is prepared to proceed using the funds already secured.

### **Direct Support Organizations & Athletics**

Trustee Crossman opened by commending the most recent Board meeting, describing it as exceptional, and noted that there were no major concerns to bring forward. Chair Gibbons then asked Trustee Crossman to collaborate with Vice President Maleszewski to address matters related to the National Alumni Association Audit.

### **Governance**

Trustee Shah was unable to provide the Governance Committee report due to travel conflicts. In his absence, Kimberly Taylor delivered an update on the Florida Legislative Session, noting that while policy bills were largely finalized as of March 13, the General Appropriations Act had not yet been passed and remained pending. She added that the Legislature may convene special sessions in April to address the budget and redistricting, with the constitutional budget deadline set for June 30. At this stage, the status of FAMU's budget remains uncertain.

President Johnson and Trustee Washington explained that although preliminary budget allocations are being developed, final allocations will ultimately determine funding levels. They emphasized that advocacy efforts will continue, particularly in support of faculty and staff compensation increases. The discussion also confirmed that Mary funding remains intact.

### **Strategic Planning and Performance Measures**

Trustee Jones was unable to present due to audio difficulties.

### **ATHLETICS POLICY CHANGE**

Chair Gibbons thanked President Johnson and her team for their collaboration in streamlining board meetings and outlined the new process for approving athletics department hires. Under this approach, the Board will approve the overall organizational chart rather than individual positions, improving efficiency and reducing administrative delays.

He also noted that, following the Board of Governors' March 26 decision to forgive the athletics department's outstanding debt, President Johnson and he discussed the implementation of appropriate debt-forgiveness controls. Chair Gibbons expressed appreciation for the President's leadership in establishing the necessary personnel and financial oversight measures.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**

Lieutenant Larhonda Gordon was invited to provide a brief update on campus safety initiatives in advance of a full report scheduled for the June Board meeting. She highlighted the "Invisible Fence" project, an effort designed to enhance security and monitor jurisdictional boundaries across campus using real-time camera technology. Lieutenant Gordon explained that the initiative includes deploying a Canon camera system integrated with Milestone XProtect AI technology, with plans to establish a real-time crime center by 2027.

Chair Gibbons underscored the importance of aligning technological enhancements with budget considerations and ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place. President Johnson expressed strong support for the project, noting its alignment with the Board's priority of maintaining a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

DRAFT