

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes April 24, 2025

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Kristin Harper called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was established with the presence of Trustees Brown, Crossman, Ellison, Figgers, Gainey, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, May, Perry, and Reed. Trustee White joined the meeting later.

II. Public Comments

The following individuals addressed the Board concerning the presidential search process:

- Montre Bennett
- Chekesha Kidd
- Erinn Tucker-Oluwole
- Carolyn Collins

III. President's Report

Dr. Timothy Beard, Interim President

Dr. Beard provided highlights from the spring semester:

- \$125,000 gift from Indelible Solutions presented by Chairman Jerome Byers and Trustee Michael White during the School of Business and Industry forum.
- Women's History Month event, *Unbreakable: A Celebration of Strength*, hosted by First Lady Wendy Beard.
- 1887 Strikes Day of Giving: Boots on the Ground held April 3–4, 2025.
- FAMU Day at the Capitol held April 9, 2025.
- School of Nursing achieved a 93% passage rate on the NCLEX-RN, an 11-point increase from the previous year and above the national benchmark.

He reviewed progress toward institutional goals aligned with the *One SUS 30* and *Boldly Striking Strategic Plans*, emphasizing community engagement, fundraising, alumni and student achievements, and academic excellence.

The university achieved a historic high score of 83 on the 2025 Performance-Based Funding (PBF) metrics, an 11-point increase from the previous year.

Dr. Beard informed the Board of an inquiry from SACSCOC regarding Standards 4.2.B and 4.2.D. The university is required to submit related documentation by May 19, 2025.

IV. Student Government Association Report

Trustee Loryn May, SGA President

Trustee May delivered her final report and reflected on her term. She outlined the year-end SGA programming:

- Rally in Tally
- FSA Day at the Capitol
- FAMU Day at the Capitol Series
- Be Out Day
- Scholars and Sweets
- SGA End of the Year Awards
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She also submitted two key memoranda addressing the Presidential Search and Campus Safety, in response to recent events.

Trustee May introduced the incoming SGA President, Zayla Bryant, and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Action Items and Reports

V. 2025–2030 Educational Plant Survey

VP Rebecca Brown presented the results and recommendations for capital outlay needs. The survey assessed future space requirements across multiple categories and institutions.

VI. Repeal of BOT Policy 2005-22 (Tuition Reimbursement)

VP Brown recommended the repeal of the policy for fiscal efficiency. Trustees requested a cost-benefit analysis to be presented in June 2025.

VII. 2025 Accountability Plan

Provost Allyson Watson summarized key updates:

- Increases in 4-year graduation, academic progress, and post-graduate median wages.
- Improved licensure passage rates, particularly in Nursing (93%).
- Rise program implementation across licensure fields.
- Updates on enrollment, research, and academic quality.

VIII. Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave

The Committee recommended nine faculty members for 2025–2026 sabbaticals:

- Clement Allen
- Victor Eno
- Bobby Granville
- John Luque
- Nzinga Metzger
- Marcia Owens

- Keerthisinghe Senevirathne
- Anedra Small
- Anandhi Aavudai Swamy

IX. Men's Basketball Coach Contract

Attorney David Self presented the employment contract for Coach Charlie Ward, pending review and final approval by:

- Office of General Counsel
- University President
- FAMU Foundation (for additional compensation coverage)

Trustees discussed contract details and unanimously supported the hire, subject to conditions.

X. University Naming – Band Rehearsal Hall

VP Anthony Neal proposed approval of naming the Band Rehearsal Hall in honor of Dr. Bernard and Shirley Kinsey.

XI. Strategic Plan Implementation & PBF Metrics Update

VP Roddrick Jones reported improvements in 7 of 11 metrics and presented updates on implementation timelines, college-level dashboards, and strategic tracking.

XII. Legislative Session Funding Update

VP Jamal Sowell and Assistant Director Milan Thompson reported on:

- Advocacy efforts during the 2025 session.
- Governor's budget recommendations.
- FY2025–2026 budget status (as of March 28, 2025).

The session may be extended.

XIII. Consent Agenda

Approved Unanimously:

- February 13, 2025 Board Minutes
- 2025–2030 Educational Plant Survey
- Repeal of BOT Policy 2005-22
- 2025 Accountability Plan
- Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave Applications
- Men's Basketball Coach Contract

Motion: Trustee Gibbons

Second: Trustee Lawson

Separately Approved Item:

- Naming of Band Rehearsal Hall

Motion: Trustee Lawson

Second: Trustee Perry

XIV. Presidential Search Update

Chair Harper addressed the importance of the search process and its implications for FAMU's future.

Concerns regarding alleged improprieties were raised by Trustee Perry. Search Committee Chair Deveron Gibbons responded, denying inappropriate conduct and reaffirming the process followed State and BOG rules. He invited any complaints to be formally investigated.

A motion was proposed to suspend the presidential search and engage an independent consultant for an investigation.

Arguments in Favor:

- Restore confidence and transparency
- Address public perception

Arguments Against:

- No evidence of impropriety
- Board of Governors is already reviewing the matter
- Risk of undermining an ongoing process

Roll Call Vote (Motion Fails, 8-5):

- **No:** Brown, Crossman, Gainey, Gibbons, Lawson, May, Washington, White
- **Yes:** Ellison, Figgers, Harper, Perry, Reed

XV. Closed Session – Collective Bargaining

Led by Attorney Kentayvia Coates

The Board ratified a tentative agreement with the faculty union providing contract extensions and salary increases for FAMU DRS faculty.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.