

**Special Committee on Athletics Minutes**

**Chair Kelvin Lawson**

**Thursday, December 2, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. Ms. Karai Lockley – Senior Associate Athletic Director of Business and Finance/Senior Woman Administrator called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Ann Marie Cavazos, Trustee Thomas Dortch Trustee David Lawrence, Trustee Otis Cliatt, Trustee Carrington Whingham and Chair/Trustee Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the June 2021 minutes and the September 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Trustee Dortch moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried.

Chair Lawson put a motion out to the board for a vote of confidence for VP/AD Gosha. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dortch without any objections.

The discussion items began with an overview of the athletics budget – the department is on track to deliver a balanced budget with a small surplus at the end of the fiscal year. All contractual revenue obligations are beginning to come in as planned and even higher than anticipated. The department is moving into year four of a balanced budget.

Bragg Memorial Stadium renovation updates followed, and construction is 100% in lock step with the deadline of completion. The drawings have been finalized for the home side of the stadium. Conversations on adding luxury boxes to the current design were entertained with details to follow in the future.

There are many capital projects that the department will be addressing (including but not limited to):

- Renovated Olympic Sports Weight Room – Completed December 1
- New Floor Gaither Gym – In progress
- Video Board Gaither Gym – July 2022
- Sound System Gaither Gym – July 2022
- AL Lawson New Center Hung and LED Ribbons – July 2022
- Baseball Field Artificial Turf – January 21
- Video Board/ Sound System at Bragg – TBD
- Stadium lighting system – TBD

Athletics is launching a feasibility study to expand the athletic program. The expansion will be centered around women's sports to address title IX ratios. The three sports that are on the table are women's golf, women's soccer, and beach volleyball. The results of the study will be presented for consideration in the future.

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Trustee Cavazos had additional questions about the academic performance rate (APR) and how it relates to the student-athletes' success. There will be more details provided in the next board of trustee meeting to explain how this is calculated.

The NCAA Constitution Committee issued a memo that student-athletes can now be categorized as employees of their institution. This creates some challenges short term but there are opportunities for Florida A&M University to ask the NCAA to look a little deeper into the make up of HBCUs. There will be an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion which includes how HBCUs are penalized and given post season bands.

VP/AD Gosha continued with the fall recap of the department which included the success of the football and volleyball teams. The football team was picked to participate in the FCS playoffs after 20 years and volleyball clinched their spot in the NCAA first and second round tournament for the first time since 2009.

The football team has been highlighted in a documentary on ESPN+ called 'Why Not Us'. The team was nationally ranked in the top 25 this year.

Florida A&M University volleyball team is the first SWAC champions in Florida A&M history.

In closing – VP/AD Gosha provided the departments vision statement that was presented in the strategic plan: *'FAMU Athletics is committed to be a nationally recognized intercollegiate athletics program that fosters diverse, inclusive and caring environment of excellence in academics, athletics and community engagement'*.

Providing examples such as – the documentary, the LeBron James partnership, being nationally ranked and one of the best student sections in the country.

Athletics' presentation ended with a brief video recapping the Florida Classic win.