

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

Athletics Committee Minutes
Kelvin Lawson, Chair
October 12, 2023

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. Mrs. Kimberly Taylor, BOT Coordinator called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Jamal Brown, Trustee Otis Cliatt, Trustee Deveron Gibbons, Trustee Londe Mondelus and Chair Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 minutes. Trustee Mondelus moved approval of the minutes, Trustee Brown provided the second, and the motion was carried unanimously. Attorney Self was recognized by Chair Lawson to present the approval of the new Head Women's Basketball coach. More time was needed so the contract was moved to the full board discussion as a separate action item.

Chair Lawson recognized AD Sykes to provide an athletics department update. She began her report with Athletics Action Plan updates. She stated that the plan has been an overall success and shared that every player on the travel roster for the Orange Blossom Classic game was successfully certified for competition prior to departure. A culture of compliance is constantly being set around NCAA Bylaws, Board and University regulations. AD Sykes made mention of the two-day long all staff meetings she hosted for the athletics department in conjunction with different divisions on campus who presented campus wide policies and procedures.

AD Sykes gave a high-level review of the fiscal year 2024 Athletics budget. She started out by sharing that we have collected approximately 40% of our projected revenue. She highlighted that the investing in champions packages exceeded projections by \$300,000 and that the Florida Classic consortium has adjusted their ticket pricing model in which she is confident that we will exceed those projections as well. She made mention that there's approximately a 2-million-dollar gap in the operational budget compared to the necessary operational expenses.

AD Sykes also noted that athletics is continuously identifying ways to generate revenue to support the operational expenses of the department which includes strike tours, hosting High School Championships, tailgating, golf tournaments, and 50/50 raffles to name a few.

She shared that the Board approved 3 recommendations for honorary naming. Two of the athletics facilities naming have been fully executed. The football field was dedicated to Ken Riley and was officially named Ken Riley Field at Bragg Memorial Stadium on September 16, 2023 and the football locker room was dedicated as the George "Godfather" Thompson Locker Room on September 20, 2023.

AD Sykes went on to share the hiring of two Head Coaches, Bridgette Gordon (Head Women's Basketball Coach) and Capri Howard (Head Women's Bowling Coach), Kenny Lassiter (Head Athletic Trainer), and LeDon Pritchett (Director of Facilities and Operations) and a host of assistant coaches. She highlighted that one team and one individual student-athlete have received national recognition. The football team is ranked #16 in the nation and Volleyball student-athlete is ranked #2 in the nation with a recorded 424 digs.

In closing, she shared upcoming events such as the 2023 SWAC Cross Country Championship held in Apalachee Regional Park on October 23rd, the 2023 SWAC Football Championship on December 2nd that we plan to host at Bragg Stadium, and the 2023 FHSAA Football Championships which will be

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held at Bragg December 7-9 as well.

Chair Lawson congratulated AD Sykes and Athletics on all the success within the department and with the athletic programs.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.