

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

**Special Committee on the College of Law
Committee Minutes
December 7, 2022**

The Special Committee on the College of Law met on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Trustee Otis Cliatt called the meeting to order with the following committee members establishing a quorum: Otis Cliatt, Michael Dubose, Zachary Bell, and Kristin Harper.

Trustee Cliatt asked for a motion to approve the June 1, 2022, meeting minutes. Trustee Dubose moved approval. Trustee Harper seconded the movement, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Next, Dean Deidre Keller provided an update on the July 2022 bar results, recruitment plans, and retention of students. She shared that for the July 2022 bar examination, the College's first-time passage rate was 52.6%, which was 11.8% lower than the State average. She noted that the Board of Governors established a goal of an 80% first-time passage rate for graduates. Dean Keller stated that students taking the July 2022 bar exam had their first year of studies interrupted by COVID in March 2020 and that there was a decline in the performance of most of the Florida law schools. The performance on the exam was down at some schools by more than 10%. She predicted that the July 2023 first-time passage rate should be about 63% due to the increased credentials in the cohorts that began law school in July 2020.

Dean Keller predicted that the Fall 2022 cohort has a 75% chance of passing the bar examination the first time. This is based on the median LSAT score of 150 and a median GPA of 3.4. She shared that the College offered over \$500K in scholarships to incoming students.

The recruitment strategy is to continue to move the incoming credentials in a positive direction, while also focusing on yielding more of the University's mission students. Dean Keller also shared that the College of working on a marketing strategy aimed directly at attracting additional mission students to apply to the College.

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The College had six transfers in 2022, which is significantly below the previous rate of transfers. This change occurred because of the deployment of retention scholarships which helped to retain high performing students in the cohort. Dean Keller said that the College is focusing on writing skills and analysis skills, which will lift the student across the curriculum.

Dean Keller stated that there is still a need to provide wraparound services to students with particular emphasis on financial aid. She also said that the two big issues that stay on her mind are staying on top of student-to-faculty ratios regarding the skills curriculum, particularly with first-year students, and staying on top of the evolution of the bar examination. She shared that the National Council on Bar Examiners is preparing a next-generation bar examination that will change how law students become licensed.

The College is outsourcing coaching for students, as the Bar Prep companies are the subject matter experts in bar coaching. She indicated that getting students to take advantage of the coaching is challenging, but the College continues to encourage students to use those resources. They are also encouraging them to use the services early in their time at the College, as most students do engage a bar prep company of their choosing. Trustee Perry reminded the Committee that bar prep should start on the first day of law school.

Trustee Harper asked that Dean Keller create a scorecard/dashboard of the actions that the College of Law has committed to implementing, noting completion, whether the College is on track, and whether there are any gaps. Chair Lawson asked that Dean Keller and Provost Watson look at what steps can be taken by the College of Law on the front end, to ensure that every student becomes stronger from day one.

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