

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Minutes**  
**Trustee Raphael Vazquez, Vice Chair**  
**June 11, 2026**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Trustee Jamal Brown called the meeting to order. Ms. Valeria Singleton called the roll. The following committee members were present:

- Trustee Jamal Brown
- Trustee Kenneth Jones
- Trustee Raphael Vazquez
- Trustee Kennedy Williams

A quorum was established.

**Follow-up Items**

There was one follow-up item from the February Board of Trustees meeting regarding credit hours transferred by incoming freshmen, so an update would be provided during the presentation.

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**Action Items**

**1. Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2026**

Trustee Jones moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2026, meeting. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**2. Tenure**

In accordance with University Regulation 10.204 Faculty Tenure, tenure may be granted to faculty employees who have demonstrated evidence of highly competent teaching, research, and other scholarly activities, as well as significant contributions to the University and society. These candidates normally hold a terminal degree in their field, and their nomination signifies that the University is satisfied they will continue to make meaningful professional contributions.

Following a comprehensive review process involving departmental, college, and university-level committees, it was recommended that tenure be granted to 15 faculty members for their demonstrated excellence in teaching, publishing, research, and service to the University.

**Candidate Name**

1. Natalie Arnett
2. Brittney Boykins
3. Charlie Colquitt
4. Inger Daniels
5. Jeffery Etheridge
6. Gallop Franklin
7. Kyle Harris
8. Madison Holmes
9. Leona Johnson
10. Jinwei Liu
11. Baruch Lundy
12. Solomon Manukure
13. Lucy Ngatia
14. Bishnu Regmi
15. Phylicia Taylor

Trustee Jones moved to approve the tenure nominations. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Before turning the presentation over to Dr. Kincey, Provost Watson provided highlights of several strategic academic priorities before the committee.

First, the proposed 2027–2028 General Education Course List reflects our continued commitment to student success, academic rigor, and curricular alignment across the institution.

Second, the Specialized Admissions renewal requests, formerly referred to as Limited Access in key areas, are critical to maintaining accreditation standards, managing clinical and instructional capacity, and supporting high-demand workforce programs aligned with the State University System priorities.

Third, the proposed revisions to Regulation 2.015 present an important opportunity for innovation in graduate education at Florida A&M University. The revisions provide flexibility for academic units to determine whether the GRE or GMAT is required for admission to master’s and doctoral programs, while maintaining transparency and academic standards. This strategic adjustment allows us to better leverage undergraduate and master’s degree performance as indicators of doctoral readiness, helping us fast-track talented students into Ph.D. pathways, strengthen graduate enrollment, increase doctoral production, and support Florida A&M University’s continued advancement toward Carnegie R1 classification.

Finally, Item IX, the proposed new Ph.D. in Biology, represents an exciting and transformational opportunity for the University. This research-intensive doctoral program will significantly increase biology-based research activity while further strengthening our partnership with the Moffitt Cancer Center. Through this growing pipeline, our students will have expanded opportunities to engage in cancer research, increase awareness and training related to patents and intellectual property

development, and contribute to research commercialization efforts. This initiative also directly aligns with the State University System's SUS 30 goals by enhancing innovative research, workforce preparation, economic development, and doctoral degree production.

### 3. **FAMU 2027-2028 General Education Course List**

We are seeking approval for the University's 2027–28 General Education course offerings. This year's curriculum updates include four new courses, one course removal, and two course title updates.

We are adding four high-impact courses to meet student needs and strengthen core competencies: *English Composition with Lab*, *Introduction to Data Science*, *Fundamentals of Chemistry Laboratory*, and *Differential Equations*. We have removed *Fundamentals of Chemistry* from the general education roster to eliminate duplication.

Two courses have been updated with the revised title, *Mathematics in Context*. These changes ensure our curriculum remains rigorous, efficient, and aligned with student success metrics.

Trustee Brown moved to approve the 2027-2028 General Education course list. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### 4. **Specialized Admissions**

We are requesting authorization to renew the Specialized Admissions designation for four undergraduate programs: Nursing, Architecture, Journalism, and Public Relations, pursuant to Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.013.

The Specialized Admissions process enables these programs to implement a set of selective criteria that must be met before admission to the degree. By managing enrollment and maintaining optimal class sizes, FAMU ensures that students benefit from high-quality, individualized instruction and support necessary for their academic success and timely graduation.

Our Nursing and Architecture programs depend on specialized facilities—laboratories, clinical sites, and design studios—which have fixed safety and capacity constraints. Additionally, Nursing must secure sufficient clinical rotation placements within Florida for all enrolled students.

Nursing and Architecture are recognized as Programs of Strategic Emphasis, serving as vital pipelines to meet regional and national workforce needs; therefore, our graduates must be exceptionally well-prepared. Journalism and Public Relations also have a strong reputation for producing distinguished media professionals and strategic communicators. Selective enrollment is essential to ensure students receive rigorous faculty mentorship and access to advanced media lab resources needed to remain competitive in today's marketplace.

Approval is sought to renew Specialized Admissions status for Nursing, Architecture, Journalism, and Public Relations, thereby supporting the financial sustainability, accreditation compliance, and instructional excellence of these core disciplines.

Trustee Brown moved to approve the Specialized Admissions status for Nursing, Architecture, Journalism, and Public Relations. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **5. Regulation 2.015 (Admissions)**

The proposed amendment updates our policy regarding standardized tests, including the GRE and GMAT. Individual departments will now have the authority to determine whether these tests are required for their respective disciplines. This change enables our programs to attract highly qualified applicants and to use assessment tools best suited to predicting success in their specific industry.

For transparency and accountability, any program that requires a test or offers a waiver must publish its minimum score requirements and waiver criteria.

Additionally, a minor revision was made to the undergraduate Readmission process. Students who have been academically suspended must now receive official approval from the University Academic Appeals Committee before reapplying.

Trustee Brown moved to approve the revisions to University Regulation 2.015. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **6. New Degree – Ph.D. in Biology**

The University has proposed a research-intensive Ph.D. in Biological Sciences, featuring an innovative concentration in Cancer Biology, Data Science, and Machine Learning co-developed with the Moffitt Cancer Center. This program directly aligns with the Florida Board of Governors' SUS 30 Extraordinary Impact Strategic Plan by producing high-skilled, high-wage graduates in a high-demand Program of Strategic Emphasis.

The program will further expand Florida A&M University's research enterprise through increased cancer research activity, doctoral production, federal grant competitiveness, and innovation partnerships. Students participating in this pipeline will also receive exposure to intellectual property development, patent awareness, and research commercialization opportunities associated with emerging biomedical discoveries.

By expanding doctoral degree production and strengthening interdisciplinary STEM research capacity, this program serves as a critical strategic lever in advancing FAMU toward its aspirational goal of achieving Carnegie R1 institutional status.

Trustee Brown moved to approve the new Ph.D. program in Biology. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **7. Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program**

The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs are designed to support students with intellectual disabilities by expanding access to and independent living opportunities, including postsecondary education and pathways to meaningful employment.

These programs are non-degree seeking and intentionally structured to meet the individualized needs of each student while enabling full participation in the college experience. FPCTPs are funded through the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act.

Florida Statute 1004.6495. Under this legislation, institutions may receive up to \$1.5 million over a 3-year grant period. To establish and operate an approved program.

27 programs are currently statewide, including universities, Florida college system schools, technical schools, and independent colleges. Six SUS universities are currently funded. That includes FAU, FIU, UCF, UNF, USF, and Florida Gulf Coast University.

This is a collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, which includes the College of Education under Dr. Sarah Price, Continuing Education under Dr. Phyllis Watson, and CeDAR, our Center for Disability Access and Resources, under Ms. Deborah Sullivan. Up to 10 students will participate in the initial cohort. Wraparound services will be supported by the grant funding and CeDAR, including job coaches, peer mentors, an academic coordinator, and an employment transition coordinator. Eligible students may also access federal Pell Grants and receive up to \$15,000 annually in scholarships from FPCTP. Approval was recommended to proceed with the FPCTP grant application.

Trustee Brown moved to approve the submission of the grant for the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. Trustee Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Informational Items**

*Student Affairs Updates*

**Dr. William Hudson, Jr.**, provided the following updates:

- **Admissions & Recruitment**
    - The academic profile for the Class of 2030 has increased and there are more than 1,500 students with dual enrollment credits ranging from three credit hours to 60 credit hours (with an AA degree).
    - To assist with increasing the number of high academic profile students and the number of SES transfers, we have created the Regional Transfer NFTIC recruitment position. This position is designed to strengthen FAMU's enrollment pipeline through intentional, regionally focused recruitment strategies targeting both transfer students and first-time and continuing college students.
  - **Housing**
    - There are 1,880 new admits that have been assigned housing. There are 1,251 returning students assigned housing.
  - **Financial Aid**
    - There are 7,664 students awarded financial aid for the 2026-2027 academic year. There are 639 law school students awarded financial aid and 163 graduate/distance learning students awarded financial aid.
    - Currently, there is one allegation of hazing at FAMU, submitted on February 11, 2026.
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*Academic Affairs Updates*

- **National Institute for Student Success** - Academic Affairs continues advancing several student success and academic enhancement initiatives in partnership with the National Institute for Student Success (NISS).
  - Shared the results of the diagnostic assessment along with FAMU's implementation plan in response to the National Institute for Student Success diagnostic and playbook. The implementation plan is organized around a clear Crawl, Walk, Run framework designed to move the University from strong student success outcomes to a more coordinated, data-driven, and scalable student success system.
  - The NISS diagnostic identified four priority areas for action: strengthening first-year supports, improving the use of data to proactively support students, coordinating academic advising through standardized training and processes, and moving financial wellness from a reactive model to a proactive one. Importantly, FAMU begins this work from a position of strength. Our first-year retention rates already exceed HBCU and aspirant peer benchmarks, and our four-year graduation rate has increased significantly since 2015. The opportunity before us is to convert that momentum into institutional systems that can reduce stop-out and transfer-out rates, close the Pell attainment gap,

and move the University's six-year graduation rate from 61 percent toward and beyond 70 percent.

- The plan begins with the Crawl phase, covering months one through six. This phase is about governance, baseline data, and quick wins. The most urgent action is to establish two key bodies within the first 30 days: the Academic Advising Council and the First-Year Committee. These groups will create the structure needed to align advising, first-year experience, data governance, and financial wellness efforts across Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, Institutional Effectiveness, and the Registrar.
- The Walk phase, from months seven through eighteen, moves from structure to implementation. During this phase, FAMU will pilot meta-majors, freshman learning communities, standardized advising campaigns, degree maps across all programs, DFW dashboards, financial aid nudging, and completion grant pilots. This is where the University begins using data not just to report outcomes, but to trigger timely interventions for students.
- The Run phase, from months nineteen through thirty-six, focuses on scale and sustainability. Successful pilots will expand institution-wide, predictive analytics will support holistic student risk scoring, financial wellness interventions will be measured for return on investment, and completion grants will be sustained through recurring funding strategies. The goal is to institutionalize what works, discontinue what does not, and close persistent equity gaps, particularly for Pell-eligible students. The establishment of the University College is the result of the implementation of these recommendations.
- This work matters in three ways. Morally, it reflects FAMU's mission to ensure that every student who enrolls has a genuine opportunity to complete their degree. Fiscally, every 100 additional retained students generates significant tuition and fee revenue. Strategically, every additional FAMU graduate strengthens Florida's workforce, communities, and economy.
- In summary, the NISS implementation plan is not a new set of disconnected programs. It is a disciplined operating model for student success. It gives FAMU a phased roadmap to align people, data, advising, financial wellness, and first-year support around one measurable goal: helping more Rattlers persist, graduate, and thrive.
- **Post-Tenure Review:** In accordance with University Regulation 10.204 Faculty Tenure, I am presenting the preliminary results of the Post-Tenure Review (PTR) evaluations for AY 2025-2026. As you may be aware, post-tenure review is a BOG mandated evaluation of tenured faculty at the University. Each tenured faculty undergoes a post-tenure review every five years. We are completing the third year of our first round of post-tenure reviews.
  - This is a preliminary report. Under current university procedures, faculty members reviewed in this cycle have the opportunity to appeal their individual evaluation results,

and therefore, these totals are subject to final adjustment. I will report on the final results at the next board meeting.

- The aggregate totals for the ratings of the thirty-five faculty members evaluated this evaluation cycle are as follows:
  - Exceeds Expectations: 7 (20% of total reviewed)
  - Meets Expectations: 26 (74% of total reviewed)
  - Does Not Meet Expectations: 1 (3% of total reviewed)
  - Unsatisfactory: 1 (3% of total reviewed)
- These preliminary findings demonstrate that the vast majority of our tenured faculty continue to perform at or above the high expectations set by the university.
- **Curriculum Maps** - As part of our ongoing student success efforts, Academic Affairs has made significant progress in curriculum mapping across the University.

To date, 69 of 70 transfer curriculum maps have been revised and aligned with the updated General Education and Civics Literacy requirements, and 92% of colleges and schools have submitted updated maps. These revised curriculum pathways help provide students with clearer academic progression, improve advising efficiency, support timely graduation, and strengthen transfer student success.

Updated curriculum maps will be publicly available through our Regular and Transfer Admissions and Transfer Academic Success websites by June 12. We anticipate completion of the remaining submissions following ongoing program consolidations within the School of Architecture and Engineering Technology.

These efforts reflect our continued commitment to operational efficiency, student-centered academic planning, and measurable student success outcomes.

In simple terms, curriculum mapping helps ensure students take the right courses at the right time, reduces unnecessary delays to graduation, improves advising consistency across the University, and creates a clearer pathway from enrollment to degree completion.

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## Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Raphael Vazquez  
Vice Chair, Academic and Student Affairs Committee