

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes June 11, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Deveron Gibbons, Chair

Chair Gibbons called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Trustee Brown offered a moment of prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustees Brown, Crossman, Figgers, Gainey, Gibbons, Harris, Jones, Williams, and Young were present, establishing a quorum.

Chair Gibbons then requested a motion to amend the agenda to move the Legislative Budget Request from the consent agenda to an action item. Trustee Gainey moved, and Trustee Figgers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The meeting proceeded with the public comment period.

Mr. Zachary Ansley, a 52-year veteran of Florida A&M University and current President of the FAMU Rattler Boosters, spoke on the One FAMU initiative. He encouraged the University to ensure the initiative remains inclusive of the DSOs' perspectives, particularly regarding membership growth, recruitment, and engagement with private and corporate donors. He acknowledged President Johnson, Vice President/Athletic Director John Davis, and the head football coach for accepting his challenge to become lifetime booster members and encouraged trustees and corporate partners to do the same.

Col. Ronald Joe then addressed the Board, expressing concerns about the proposed FAMU Alumni Engagement Council for Direct Support Organizations, which would influence decisions regarding gifts from both DSOs and non-DSOs. He recommended that the Board delay approval and instead meet with DSOs and other contributing groups. He further suggested forming a committee—including DSOs, non-DSOs, and other interested donors—to collaboratively strengthen University fundraising. Col. Joe also announced that the Rattler Boosters are preparing for the Annual Kick-off Luncheon on August 22 and welcomed broad support for the event.

Before the President's Report, Chair Gibbons introduced a new agenda item: trustee introductions. Noting that many trustees are new and not yet well known across campus, he shared that two trustees will be spotlighted at each meeting going forward. A video introduction was then presented featuring Trustee John Crossman, CEO and Founder of CrossMarc Services, and Trustee Kennedy Williams, SGA President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Marva B. Johnson, President

President Johnson began her report by expressing appreciation to the Legislature and the Governor's Office for supporting critical foundational investments essential to advancing the University's mission. While the budget process remains ongoing, she noted her confidence that the Governor will recognize the strong return on these investments as final budget decisions are made.

She then introduced a video highlighting major campus activities since the last Board meeting, including the welcome of the newest Board member and SGA President, Kennedy Williams; FAMU's participation in the Association of HBCU Research Institutions; the America 250 essay contest; the 1887 Strikes Day of Giving; and the investiture of President Marva B. Johnson.

President Johnson provided a comprehensive update on FAMU's strategic priorities, emphasizing progress in student success, research expansion, and financial stewardship. She noted improvements in first-to-second-year retention, a significant rise in research expenditures from \$47.1 million to \$85.1 million over four years, and the University's successful completion of three consecutive years of doctoral degree production. She also identified areas requiring continued focus, including first-time-in-college enrollment, graduation growth, and master's and research doctoral enrollment. The most urgent priority is professional doctoral enrollment, though she expressed confidence in the provost's strategies to support a strong recovery. She underscored the University's role as a founding member of the Association of HBCU Research Institutions (APRI), describing it as a major milestone that will accelerate FAMU's pursuit of R1 Carnegie classification.

The Board then heard from **Melinda Williams**, founder of the Arise and Shine Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding educational access and opportunity for under-resourced and underserved communities. Williams presented the ESTEAMED Summit program, which has served nearly 200 students across 30 HBCUs since 2024 and, this week, launched on FAMU's campus through the Coding Bootcamp and App Challenge. The ESTEAMED program equips students to design technology solutions addressing real-world challenges while fostering personal growth, confidence, and well-being. Before her departure, Chair Gibbons announced plans to name a room in a recently renovated building in honor of Williams' program.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Deveron Gibbons, Chair

Chair Gibbons acknowledged the Campus Safety Report presented earlier in the day by Chief Audrey Alexander and Lt. Larhonda Gordon. He expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Michael White for identifying the need to review procurement policies, and to Dr. Brandi Tatum-Fedrick and President Johnson for their work in closing the fundraising gap. He also thanked Vice President Robinson for her efforts throughout this legislative cycle.

He recognized Trustee Brown and the DRS Committee for their leadership in addressing challenges at the Developmental Research School and working toward meaningful resolutions. Appreciation was extended to all coaches and to Athletic Director John Davis for advancing the athletics agenda. Chair Gibbons also thanked the members of the President's Office for coordinating the dinner and meals provided during the meeting.

He further acknowledged COO Lawson, President Johnson, and the groundskeeping team for the exceptional appearance of the campus grounds. Finally, he thanked the trustees—both those attending in person and those participating virtually—for their presence and preparation.

Chair Gibbons concluded by announcing the upcoming Board Retreat, scheduled for July 14–16 in Stuart, Florida, noting that it will be action-packed with a touch of fun.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT

Trustee Kennedy Williams, SGA President

SGA President and Trustee Williams began her report by recognizing Monquarius Williams, Vice President of the Student Government Association, and the students from Dillard High School who are on campus participating in comprehensive SGA training. She reported on SGA’s recent participation in the six-day NASAP Student Leadership Institute at Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She also announced that SGA will host officer training on August 12–14, 2026, to equip newly elected leaders across all branches with the knowledge, tools, and relationships necessary to serve effectively. This year’s training will focus on governance, parliamentary procedure, constitutional responsibilities, budget management, inter-branch communication, event-planning protocols, and FAMU’s governance structure.

Trustee Williams shared that SGA inauguration is tentatively scheduled for September 25, with the time to be announced. Planning for the 2026 Homecoming is underway, and SGA is awaiting final theme confirmation from the Homecoming Steering Committee, expected by July 10. The events calendar for Homecoming Week has been finalized and is pending committee approval. Vendor sponsorships are being coordinated with the FAMU Foundation, and corporate sponsorship proposals have been drafted. The Homecoming concert reveal is scheduled for August 29 at Ken Riley Field in Bragg Memorial Stadium during the first home football game.

Key Dates

- **June 17** – Faculty Homecoming student review meeting
- **June 18** – Student Committee receives official theme confirmation
- **Week of June 22** – Student leads begin meetings with faculty leads and Ms. Mary Brown to discuss expectations, planning timelines, and event development
- **June 23** – A&S Training
- **July 1** – Second round of detailed event proposals due from all teams

Trustee Williams also reported that the Student Government Association conducted a full constitutional convention to review, debate, and ratify amendments to the Student Body Constitution. All amendments are now awaiting ratification by the Judicial Rules Committee. Additionally, SGA updated its GPA requirement to a minimum 3.0, aligning with standards across the State University System and peer institutions such as Morehouse and Spelman.

SGA Week Schedule of Events

- **September 20** – Worship Service
- **September 21** – Open House
- **September 22** – TBD
- **September 23** – Rattler Roundtable discussion on current events and political awareness
- **September 24** – SGA vs. CAB vs. Royal Court Basketball Game
- **September 25** – SGA Inauguration

All event times remain under review. .

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Trustee Jamal Brown, Faculty Senate President

Trustee Brown opened his report by acknowledging the faculty senators in attendance—Dr. Eidahl and Dr. Osborne—as well as the representatives of the Dean’s Council, Dr. Kyle Harris and Dr. Matthews. He then highlighted several recent faculty activities and engagements:

- **Faculty Day** featuring a visit from Google Gemini
- **Teaching and Innovation Tour** for research and teaching faculty, conducted with the Provost
- **Presidential Investiture**
- **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony** for the Brooksville Solar Farm
- **Emancipation Day and Farm Fest** at the Brooksville Research Center

In closing, Trustee Brown encouraged the Board to explore opportunities for collective engagement at the Brooksville facility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Nicole Washington, Chair

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met today. The following trustees were present: Jamal Brown, Kenneth Jones, Raphael Vazquez, and Kennedy Williams. A quorum was established.

The Committee recommended approval of the following items:

- Minutes for February 12, 2026;
- Tenure;
- FAMU 2027-28 General Education Course List;
- Specialized Admission;
- Amendment to Regulation 2.015 (Admissions);
- New Degree – Ph. D. in Biology; and
- Submission of the grant for the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program.

The Committee also heard updates on enrollment, FCS transfer, student success, curriculum mapping, and post-tenure review.

Chair Gibbons, this concludes my report.

Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee

Trustee John Crossman, Vice Chair

Earlier today the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee met. The Committee took up four action items. The first item was approval of the minutes from the February 12, 2026, meeting.

The other items approved and moving forward for full board consideration are approval of the Division of Audit Annual Work Plan; approval of the Division of Audit Charter, and approval of the ERM Annual Work Plan.

These items are included in the full Board consent agenda for consideration of approval. We also received informational updates from Compliance and Audit.

Finally, I led a discussion related to procurement transformation and nepotism policies.

Chair Gibbons, this concludes my report.

Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee

Trustee Emery Gainey, Chair

The Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee met on Thursday, June 11, 2026. The following trustees were present: Jamal Brown, Emery Gainey, Deveron Gibbons, Victor Young. A quorum was established. The June meeting agenda consisted of nine (9) action items and two (2) information items.

The Committee recommended approval of the following items:

- Minutes from February 12, 2026, Committee Meeting
- 2026-2027 Operating Budget
- 2027-2028 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Continuing Services – Contracts Authority
- Construction Management – Contract Authority
- Approval of Building Acquisition
- Athletics Debt Forgiveness
- Extended Financial and Workday Support Services
- Approval for Multi-Year Contract for Shajuana Jenkins

The Committee also heard updates on two (2) information items: Quarterly Financial Report – Budget to Actuals and Workday Update.

Chair Gibbons, this concludes my report.

Direct Support Organizations and Athletics Committee

Trustee John Crossman, Chair

The Direct Support Organizations and Intercollegiate Athletics Committee convened on June 11, 2026.

The Committee approved the following action items:

- 1) February 12, 2026, committee meeting minutes.
- 2) Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment.
- 3) A Gift-Related Naming Opportunity for Track and Field.
- 4) Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budgets for the FAMU Foundation and Rattler Boosters.

The Committee was presented with the following informational items:

- 1) Divisional Updates for University Advancement and the Direct Support Organizations.
- 2) Athletics Department updates from AD John Davis.

This concludes the Direct Support Organizations and Intercollegiate Athletics Committee report.

Governance Committee

Trustee Natlie Figgers, Vice Chair

The Governance Committee met today and the February 12, 2026, committee minutes were approved. The 2027–2028 Preliminary Legislative Budget Request was recommended to be approved by the full board.

Following these actions, Vice President Michelle Robinson provided an update on Government Relations, including the status of the 2026–27 Legislative Budget. The timelines for President Johnson’s goal setting and evaluation process, as well as the Board’s self-evaluation, were also presented.

This concludes my report.

Special Committee on the Developmental Research School

Trustee Jamal Brown, Chair

The DRS Special Committee convened with the following members present: Trustees Roderick Harris, Natlie Figgers, Emery Gainey, Michael White, and Jamal Brown.

The committee approved the May 12, 2026, meeting minutes as its action item.

Committee Chair Brown provided updates on the various DRS teams, outlining the work completed to date and the plans currently underway. The committee also received remarks from DRS Superintendent Michael Johnson, who offered feedback and identified several items requiring follow-up by the Board and committee members.

In discussing next steps, the committee emphasized the importance of maintaining a laser-focused approach to the academic improvement plan. Priority areas include evaluating school structure, exploring college education models, and advancing the committee’s work on pipeline and scholarship initiatives.

This concludes my report.

Strategic Planning and Performance Measures Committee

Trustee Kenneth Jones, Chair

The Strategic Planning and Performance Measures Committee met on Thursday, June 11, 2026. The meeting was attended by Chair Jones, Trustee Brown, Trustee Crossman, Trustee Young, and Trustee Williams. A quorum was present.

Action Item

The committee approved the minutes of the February 12, 2026, meeting.

Information Items

2022–2027 Boldly Striking Strategic Plan: Progress and Future Direction

Dr. Roddrick Jones, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Analysis and Institutional Effectiveness, presented an update on progress toward the University's 2022–2027 *Boldly Striking* Strategic Plan. The committee reviewed performance across the University's strategic priorities, including student success, academic excellence, institutional reputation, financial sustainability, and organizational effectiveness. Updates included improvements in student outcomes, workforce indicators, and Programs of Strategic Emphasis, as well as the continued expansion of dashboards,

scorecards, and forthcoming data governance initiatives to strengthen accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

Mr. Kevin Lawson, Chief Operating Officer, provided an overview of initiatives supporting development of the 2028–2033 Strategic Plan. The committee received updates regarding the proposed governance structure, planning timeline, stakeholder engagement process, and efforts to align the next strategic plan with State University System priorities, presidential priorities, and institutional goals.

Overall, the committee was informed of the University's continued progress under the current strategic plan and the collaborative efforts underway to develop the University's next strategic planning framework through 2033.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Items Approved Unanimously:**
 - Board Minutes.
 - April 15, 2026
 - Tenure
 - FAMU 2027-28 General Education Course List
 - Specialized Admission
 - Regulation 2.015 (Admissions)
 - New Degree – Ph.D. in Biology
 - Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program
 - Division of Audit Work Plan
 - Division of Audit Charter
 - ERM Annual Work Plan
 - 2026-2027 Operating Budget
 - 2027-2028 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget
 - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
 - Continuing Services – Contract Authority
 - Construction Management – Contract Authority
 - Motor Pool Parking Lot Project
 - Approval of Building Acquisition
 - Athletics Debt Forgiveness
 - Extended Financial Management Support Services
 - Approval of Multi-Year Contract for Shajuana Jenkins
 - Approval of Foundation Board FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget Amendment
 - Approval of FY 2026-2027 DSO Operating Budget
 - FAMU Foundation
 - Rattler Boosters

The Board addressed the 2027-2028 Legislative Budget Request and Approval of the gift-related naming recommendation separately and approved each of them unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Trustees members and select University administrators exited the meeting to conduct closed sessions on collective bargaining related to negotiations with the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) for both the University's general faculty and FAMU DRS. Participants included the Board members; President Johnson; COO Lawson; Provost Watson; Mr. Bailey; Dean Price; Superintendent Johnson; outside counsel Robert Lockin; and attorneys Iris Elijah, Kentayvia Coates, and Avery McKnight.

Upon returning to open session, Trustee Brown moved that the Board ratify the tentative agreements between the FAMU Board of Trustees, UFF Faculty, and UFF DRS, collectively representing the UFF faculty and UFF DRS bargaining units, for the 2026–2029 contract term. Trustee Gainey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

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