

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Governance Committee Minutes June 11, 2025 4:15 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Committee Chair Belvin Perry called the Governance Committee meeting to order. Trustees Gainey, Harper and Perry were in attendance and established a quorum. Trustees Figgers and White were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the February 12, 2025, meeting minutes that were posted on the board's website and provided in the committee meeting materials. Trustee Harper moved approval of the February 12, 2025, minutes and Trustee Gainey seconded. The motion carried.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Vice President Sowell emailed the Board copies of the legislative budget requests from the University of Florida that will show how they align with some of the University's requests/asks that some of the other SUS institutions use. His end goal is to engage in robust discussions with the Board, compile the data, and use it along with the priorities of the state as the focus for the legislative budget request for 2026-2027. He also provided a brief overview of Blueprint Tallahassee. Assistant Director Thompson highlighted projects in Tallahassee near FAMU which include the FAMU entry point at Osceola and Adams Streets and at Perry and Gamble Streets. Upcoming projects include the widening of Orange Avenue and the Monroe-Adams corridor project. Both projects were created to ensure there are safe and comfortable street environments for pedestrians and cyclists. Additionally, there are continuous improvement projects on five streets connected to the campus as well as the airport gateway project which will improve traffic flow from the airport to FAMU, FSU and downtown Tallahassee. Blueprint Tallahassee is also working on or has worked on the Capital Cascades history and cultural trail where kiosks and structures are placed throughout the walking trails and provide a history of the area to the community. Trustee Lawson asked if FAMU is at a point where they can go back and make a second request to Blueprint Tallahassee, particularly around upgrades to the stadium? VP Sowell answered by stating that in speaking with the agency, a new request would have to go through the Citizen Advisory Committee. Trustee Lawson responded that this is something to consider since there are still some ADHD issues and overall aesthetic issues with the restrooms and food court at the current stadium because we ran out of funds. If there is an opportunity to acquire more funds as you are talking about the masterplan or infrastructure upgrades, please revisit Blueprint.

VP Sowell and Assistant Director Thompson updated the committee on the status of legislative priorities and allocations as of today. The budget still is incomplete. Once the budget and budget conference is complete, the budget will rest for 72 hours before the legislature votes, Once they vote and the budget is passed, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate presents it

to the Governor who will sign it with line-item vetoes and the general or GAA and become effective July 1. Thus, the reason for the current discussion, After the vote on the LBR, it must be submitted to the BOG by July 31. Provost Watson presented draft legislative budget request ideas centered on “harnessing unlimited brilliance” and emphasized aligning requests with state priorities. VP Sowell welcomes trustees input to ensure priorities and will host briefing call meetings for their input.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Pursuant to article 3, section 3.2 of the Board Operating Procedures, the board must select its chair and vice chair during the first regular meeting after July in odd-number years. Additionally, a trustee must declare his or her candidacy for chair or vice chair during the June Board meeting in the election year. The following appointed members of the Board were eligible to serve as Chair or Vice Chair, Johnson Crossman, Natlie Figgers, Deveron Gibbons, Kristin Harper, Kelvin Lawson, Craig Reed, Ralphael Vazquez, Nicole Washington, and Michael White. Trustee Perry indicated that he excluded his name for the list of eligible appointed members so that he would not have relinquish the chair to either the student government president or the faculty senate president. Committee Chair Perry then requested trustees vying for chair and vice chair to please declare their intentions. Trustee Gibbons declared his candidacy for Chair and Trustee Reed nominated Trustee Harper, who respectfully declined. Trustee Lawson nominated Trustee White for vice chair. Committee Chair Perry will provide the names of the candidates in the position that they seek during the full Board meeting tomorrow. Trustee Bryant asked for the September timeline for presentation for the candidates and if they needed a majority vote. Chair Perry responded that timeline is devoted to the September Governance meeting and a majority vote is needed.

TIMELINES FOR PRESIDENTIAL EVALUATION AND BOARD SELF-EVALUATIONS

Trustee Perry announced that the President-elect proposed goals for 205-206 cannot be completed until ninety days after the President-elect is in office. Therefore, the committee will forego the proposed timeline provided to the Board. The timeline for presidential evaluation for Dr, Beard is:
June 2 – 16, 2025

The Chair will meet with the Interim President to discuss the evaluation process and any feedback suggestions.

June 17 – July 14, 2025

Dr. Beard will complete a self-evaluation or appraisal of his performance regarding the Board’s approved objectives and goals for the year 2024025 performance review period, and other such criteria that have been deemed by the Board.

July 15, 2025

Dr. Beard’s self-evaluation is due.

July 15 – 29, 2025

Each Board member will evaluate Dr. Beard’s performance for 2024-25 and will be provided with Dr. Beard’s self-appraisal and approval of the evaluation instrument for that review.

The Board was asked, once the evaluation instrument is provided and since the evaluation period is shortened, to please complete as soon as possible so that the results can be tabulated.

August

The Governance Committee will provide Dr. Beard with a draft summary of the evaluation report.

August 6, 2025

The Governance Committee will meet and approve its final draft of the evaluation report.

August 7, 2025

The Governance Committee will present the evaluation report to the Board for approval.

Chair Harper requested that the presidential goal-setting timeline for 2025-26 for the incoming president be revised to align with the contract. Also in her opinion, the Board should approve the goals and objectives by December 17. By doing so, it would allow approximately five to six weeks for review. The committee agreed to the suggestion. Committee Chair Perry requested the revision of the Presidential-elect goal setting timeline be completed so that it could be included in the Governance Committee report the following day.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Committee Chair Perry the meeting adjourned.