

**Special Committee on the College of Law  
Committee Minutes  
June 7, 2023**

The Special Committee on the College of Law met on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Trustee Otis Cliatt called the meeting to order with the following committee members establishing a quorum: Otis Cliatt, Michael Dubose, and Kristin Harper. Trustee Figgers’ absence was excused. Trustee Dubose moved approval of the minutes. Trustee Harper seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Dean Keller presented a “Proposal for Excellence,” took a deeper dive into student aid compared to the college’s SUS peers, and put the February 2023 bar results into context.

1. The proposal for excellence is a request for additional resources to address the College of Law (COL) needs. The proposal was developed with the COL administration considering what excellence looks like in each of their respective areas, to find aspirational institutions excelling in those areas, and put dollars and cents into the resources that the COL needs. Faculty feedback was also provided. The COL’s leadership took the feedback and structured the proposals around the University’s strategic priorities: student success, long-term fiscal health and sustainability, academic excellence, organizational excellence, and leveraging the brand. The total budgetary need for the proposal is \$11,090,000.
  - a. The COL’s greatest need is student success – establishment of a writing lab, increase pay for faculty teaching during the summer, and sustainable funding to recruit and retain students throughout their matriculation.
  - b. Long-term fiscal health and sustainability include procuring real property for a parking lot close to the COL.
  - c. Academic excellence focuses on providing faculty with development and resources to keep up with the best practices in pedagogy.
  - d. Organizational effectiveness requires fully staffing the COL and ensuring that the COL’s staff has ready access to development.
  - e. In leveraging the brand, the COL needs to make strategic investments in marketing campaigns and personnel.

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2. Regarding financial aid, the COL provides lower grants and scholarships amounts to fewer students compared to peer institutions. As a result, FAMU students take out more loans than students at other SUS schools. President Robinson noted that the University is committed to focusing on student success and will use newly appropriated funds and additional investments to support the COL.
3. Dean Keller discussed the February 2023 bar results in context. She shared that the variability in performance on February bar exams over time resulted from cohort size and noted that the results for all SUS schools were lower in 2022 and 2023. She also noted that the cohort that took the exam in 2023 had their first year of law school interrupted by COVID. A key part of the strategy is to seat the class earlier so that the college can give the cohort pre-matriculation resources to begin bar study and prep before starting law school courses. The incoming class has a median LSAT score of 150 and a median GPA of 3.56.

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