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**SUMMARY MINUTES
CALLED BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 14, 2012**

Chairman Solomon Badger called the meeting to order at or about 11:00 a.m. He recognized Attorney Fuse-Hall for the roll call. The following trustees were present: Chairman Badger, Trustee Torey Alston, Trustee William Jennings, Trustee Charles Langston, Trustee Kelvin Lawson, Trustee Spurgeon McWilliams, Trustee Rufus Montgomery, Trustee Narayan Persaud, Trustee Belinda Reed Shannon, Trustee Marjorie Turnbull, Trustee MARRISA West and Trustee Karl White. A quorum was established.

Chairman Badger welcomed the newest board member, Trustee Marissa West, President of the FAMU Student Government Association and thanked her for joining the call.

He noted that the issues related to the Champion matter are very complex ones that will continue to unfold over the next months. Six months later, the board received critical news from the staff; and, he encouraged everyone to remain patient with the investigation.

There has been much activity at the University over the last week and he asked President Ammons to provide an update on the band.

President James H. Ammons added his welcome to Trustee MARRISA West. These continue to be difficult days for the University family and the issues related to the Champion matter. "Several young people have been charged and arrested in connection with the Robert's death. Our hearts go out to their Champion family as well as the family and friends of all those who were involved."

Further, President Ammons informed the board that on Thursday, Dr. Julian White, long-time director of the Marching "100", retired from the University. He wished him well in his future endeavors; however, we are now without a band director or a permanent chair of the Music Department. Prior to his retirement, two faculty members in the Music Department were terminated also.

The President noted that an immediate concern at the University is the status of the marching band for the fall 2012 football season. President Ammons continued:

I would like to provide a little background on the process that we have used and the role of the Crisis Management Committee in developing a recommendation to me on this matter. In December 2011, I established the Crisis Management Committee to assist with the management of issues related to the Robert Champion crisis.

In terms of some of our immediate concerns, Trustee Belinda Shannon asked the internal crisis management committee to identify short-term issues and propose recommendations for the Board to review and discuss at its June meeting.

- One of the concerns the committee feels should be addressed immediately is when the marching band should return. Last week on Monday and Tuesday, we met with several key stakeholder groups, such as the leadership members of the FAMU Faculty Senate, the executive committee of the National Alumni Association, members of the FAMU Rattler Boosters' Board of Directors, and the new executive leadership in the FAMU Student Government Association. I listened intensely to their concerns.
- Further, I received input from the Board of Governors and Chancellor Brogan as well as other state leaders.
- We received very good ideas and recommended guidelines from all of those groups. A common theme among all groups is that a new set of guidelines should be in place before reinstating the band. Many suggested that the band requirements include:
 - Academic standards to be eligible to participate in the band.
 - Length of time an individual is allowed to participate.
 - The length of practice time.
 - The number of adults accompanying the band on out-of-town trips.
 - Enforcing travel procedures.
- Also, there were differing recommendations regarding when to

reinstate the band. Suggestions ranged from continuing the current suspension, to a call for the return of the band this fall.

— After thoughtful consideration of all this information, I have decided that the suspension of the band will continue through the 2012-13 academic year for the following reasons:

- I was heavily influenced by the need to be respectful of Mr. Champion's family and other alleged victims. A young man lost his life and others suffered serious injuries.
- The impact on the Music staff is yet to be determined since there are other outstanding investigations ongoing that involve the band.
- The band became iconic because of its commitment to excellence in every aspect of its on-field performance. I agree with the common theme expressed by our constituents, the band must be restructured. There is a limited timeframe between now and the fall in which to adequately implement any recommendations that are adopted for the organizational and managerial restructuring of the band.
- We are working with groups on alternative entertainment for the classics as well as home games. Further, we are in conversations with our sponsors of the two classics—the Florida Classic and the Atlanta Football Classic--regarding this matter and will have more information to share at the BOT retreat in June.
- Also, at the June meeting, we will present our plan on how we will bring the band back and the strategy for the music department. In addition, we will also provide details about the guidelines for new membership intake for all student organizations on the campus.

— This decision was not made lightly and with full appreciation of the various perspectives on this matter.

— Further, the band's return is predicated upon the implementation of

the corrective actions that are developed. As president, my goal is to implement the best conditions by which we can create a safe environment for teaching, learning and research to take place and to ensure that such safety carries through to all of our student organizations, including the band.

The president concluded his report and was open to answering questions. Chairman Badger thanked President Ammons for his decision about the band. He opened the floor for comments and questions.

Trustee Shannon noted that she could not support a decision until academic excellence was assured to occur.

Trustee Turnbull inquired how students and especially band students were involved in resolving the matters related to the band. President Ammons responded that he and others have met with the band members and students and those meetings will continue to occur.

Trustee Alston thanked the president for his decision. He noted that this is a “hard pill to swallow during this rehabilitation period.” He inquired about the potential impact to the classic contracts (seeks information at the June meeting), band scholarships and other items in place to ensure that performance requirements are met, including band classes and those related performances; as well as potential ticket sales. President Ammons noted that he hoped people would support the football team, especially in light of the 15 members that recently graduated. “They have been model citizens” and he hoped these citizens would be supported.

Trustee Persaud said that the Faculty Senate would like to know who is responsible for verifying the “sponsorship of these non-participating students.” President Ammons responded the instructors are responsible for the attendance and enrollment of students in the courses.

Trustee Persaud added that the feedback from faculty was “hopefully, in the decision making, we pay keen attention to that aspect” of the improvements.

Trustee Lawson thought that it was absolutely the right decision at the right time and asked how other bands are impacted by this decision. President Ammons

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noted that all other bands composed of members of the Marching "100" are suspended also.

Trustee West noted that all agree that steps must be taken before the band is reinstated; she asked the president to examine when with concrete timelines for changes to occur. President Ammons assured Trustee West that "we will work with students and to implement those in place." Trustee West emphasized, "This is a student issue and more than enough students who want to be a solution to this problem."

Trustee McWilliams inquired about the hold on the intake process for student organizations. President Ammons replied that there are two separate issues. The Division of Student Affairs has led on the intake matter and will work over the summer with these student organizations.

Since there were no further comments or questions, Chairman Badger reminded the board that the annual retreat will occur June 6-7th and the location is being determined and the details would be sent shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Fuse-Hall

Rosalind Fuse-Hall
Assistant Corporate Secretary