

Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Kristin Harper. A quorum was established with the presence of Trustees Aly, Cliatt, Crossman, Figgers, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, May, Perry, Reed, Stone, Washington, and White.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Collins expressed gratitude towards Dr. Larry Robinson for his commendable service to the University. She addressed the board, requesting guidance and the pursuit of an investigative PR Communications specialist/firm for prompt and accurate responses to inquiries regarding the University.

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION, SEARCH AND SELECTION

The main focus of the meeting was the discussion regarding the presidential transition and the selection process for an interim president.

President Larry Robinson extended his thanks to the board and all team members for their support. He highlighted several accomplishments during his tenure, including the University's contributions to Florida's rank as the number one state for higher education in the US for eight consecutive years and notable improvements in student success outcomes. He mentioned the university's national championship in HBUC football and its successful venture in building a 700-bed facility, which necessitated a change in state law and significant financing.

The board expressed deep appreciation for President Robinson's 27-year service to Florida A&M University (FAMU) and nearly seven years as president. They lauded his leadership, contributions to the university's research funding, commitment to diversity, and support for the state of Florida. It was announced that President Robinson's achievements would be highlighted on the FAMU homepage.

Chair Harper outlined the search process for selecting the 13th President of Florida A&M University and discussed the board's powers, including appointing an interim president. The debate revolved around whether to appoint an interim president or have President Robinson continue until the next president is appointed. Dr. Tim Beard was recommended for the interim position, and a discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of the interim appointment and the need for more information on Dr. Beard's readiness.

Motions and Voting

Trustee Lawson presented a motion to accept President Robinson's resignation, effective the last business day of July and the interim to commence from the first business day of August. Trustees Gibbons and Washington supported the motion, while Trustee Perry sought clarity on the motion. A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted by Trustee Lawson. Chair Harper restated the motion for President Robinson's resignation effective August 4th and for the interim president to begin on August 5th. The board voted, resulting in a 10-2 vote in favor. The roll call vote was as follows:

Aly - Yes	May – Yes
Cliatt	Perry – Yes
Crossman – Yes	Reed – No
Figgers – Yes	Stone – No
Gibbons – Yes	Washington – Yes
Harper – Yes	White - Yes
Lawson – Yes	

Next, Chair Harper proposed a motion granting her the authority to negotiate the contract with Dr. Tim Beard as Interim President for up to a 12-month period, under the condition that Dr. Beard will not apply or be considered for the permanent University President role. This was subject to approval by the Board of Trustees and confirmation by the Board of Governors. Trustee Perry seconded the motion, and the roll call vote resulted in a 11-1 vote in favor. The vote was as follows:

Aly - Yes	May – No
Cliatt	Perry – Yes
Crossman – Yes	Reed – Yes
Figgers – Yes	Stone – Yes
Gibbons – Yes	Washington – Yes
Harper – Yes	White - Yes
Lawson – Yes	

The meeting was detailed, focusing on the university's leadership transition and the board's role in managing during this crucial period.

Next Steps

1. Chair Harper to negotiate contract with Dr. Tim Beard for interim President role, subject to Board of Trustees approval and Board of Governors confirmation.
2. Trustees to provide input on interim President’s contract scope to Office of General Counsel by 5 PM Eastern, July 23, 2024.
3. Communications team to post information on President Robinson's accomplishments on FAMU homepage after meeting conclusion.
4. Dr. Tim Beard to attend Board of Trustees retreat in August as interim President.
5. Board of Trustees to discuss presidential search process in detail at August retreat.
6. President Robinson to conduct final commencement ceremony on August 2nd before stepping down.

ADJOURNMENT

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