

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Board of Trustees**



**MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Bruno, Carter, Dortch, Grable, Lawrence, Lawson, McCoy, Mills, Moore, Perry, Reed, and Washington. Trustee Woody did not attend the meeting due to a work commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals presented public comments:

Mr. Dale Landry	Mr. Darryl Reaves
Dr. Juanda Beck Jones	Mr. Derrick Wallace
Ms. Elizabeth Jones	Lt. Col. Greg Clark
Ms. Hattie Alexander	Dr. Carolyn Collins
Dr. Mary Diallo	

During the public comment section, Lt. Col. Greg Clark, president of the FAMU National Alumni Association (NAA) presented the University a check in the amount of \$300,000, which was raised at the NAA's fundraising breakfast at its national convention in May.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Larry Robinson, Interim President

Chair Lawson recognized President Robinson for his report. President Robinson's report started with a video presentation which highlighted the following:

- Dr. Robinson visited global security company Northrop Grumman with VP Edington and Engineering Dean Gibson to explore internships and expand research collaborations.
- The FAMU Honda All Star Brain Bowl team won third place in the competition and took home \$20,000.
- The National Science Foundation awarded FAMU a \$2 million grant for the FAMU STEM programs.
- Nine FAMU Alumni received the Distinguished Alumni Award during the gala held during the NAA's National Convention in Baltimore. Entertainer and alumna K. Michelle was recognized in that group.
- The FAMU women's athletics program received the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) 2016-2017 Mary McCloud Bethune Women's All-Sports Award, along with a \$20,000 check.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees



- The Men's Tennis team won the MEAC championship.
- FAMU received \$1 million to support on-line courses and \$3.5 million to assist with the construction of the Center for Access and Student Success (CASS) from the Florida Legislature.
- The FAMU IGNITE program was launched to focus on the recruitment of community college transfers.
- More than 1,000 student graduated in spring 2017.
- Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded during the ceremony to Garth Reeves, former publisher and CEO of the Miami Times newspaper and posthumously to Raymond A. Brown, a renowned criminal and civil rights attorney.

President Robinson thanked the Board for their efforts regarding the strategic plan and for hosting recruitment receptions for scholars. He said that the incoming class of scholars has the highest GPA's, SAT and ACT scores at the University in 15 years.

He also informed the Board that Dr. Belle Whelan, President of SACSCOC accepted their invitation to attend the Board's retreat on August 17, 2017.

President Robinson recognized several individuals that were newly appointed to positions:

- Dr. Dhyana Ziegler – Interim Dean, School of Journalism
- Dr. Seth Ablordeppy – Interim Dean, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Dr. Patricia Green Powell – Interim Dean, College of Education
- Mr. Leroy Pernell – Interim Dean, College of Law

Lastly, President Robinson shared that the A&M magazine will feature donors that have contributed \$100k or more to Florida A&M University.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Lawson recognized the Committee chairs to present their respective reports.

Academic and Student Affairs

Trustee Matthew Carter, Chair

Trustee Carter reported that the Committee recommended for approval the 2017/2018 Work Plan, the Academic Honesty Policy, fifteen faculty members for tenure and a sabbatical for Dr. Chao Li. He noted that these items were on the consent agenda.

Dr. Hudson provided an update on the University's 2+2 initiative. Mr. Bryan Smith gave a presentation on the anti-hazing initiative and Dr. Maurice Edington updated the Board on the program improvement strategies for programs that require graduates to become licensed.

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Board of Trustees**



Athletics

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson reported that the Special Committee on Athletics met yesterday. He reminded the committee that the coach's contract was emailed to them. He said that AD Overton and Attorney Thomas indicated that the contract was in compliance with other athletic contracts that the University offers. He asked if there were questions regarding the contract and indicated that the contract was included in the consent agenda.

Chair Lawson further shared that the University was making significant strides in the deficit reduction arena.

Audit and Compliance

Trustee Craig Reed, Chair

First Trustee Reed reported that the committee elected Trustee Belvin Perry as vice chair. He stated that the charter for the University's Compliance and Ethics Program was presented, discussed and approved. The Committee was provided a summary of major provisions of the proposed charter.

Next, he said that the audit reports for the University's Foundation, Rattler Boosters, and Alumni Affairs for the year ended June 30, 2016 were approved. Vice President Givens gave a brief overview of the audit reports and related management letters. There were no findings reported in the management letters for the Foundation or Alumni Association. The audit report for the Rattler Boosters was presented; however, the management letter had not been received. Vice President Givens was directed to continue efforts to get the management letter and keep the board updated.

The Board then heard updates on the Quality Assurance Review performed on the Division of Audit & Compliance. It was determined that there were opportunities for improvement and that there needs to be a workshop address the issues.

Chair Reed reported that the firm of Ernst & Young has been hired to perform an audit of the Rattler Boosters; however, progress has been delayed as a result of the Booster organization transitioning to new leadership and not having administrative staff from November until May. Bank statements have been received and records in the Boosters office are being reviewed to determine whether information needed to complete the audit are available. It was decided that if the records needed to complete the audit are not provided, then appropriate actions should be

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees



taken.

Finally, he reported that the status of the Division of Audit & Compliance's project for follow-up of audit findings was presented. An overview of the implementation of corrective action plans was presented. There were six audit findings for which corrective action had not been implemented by the proposed date of implementation and four audit findings for which corrective actions had been implemented by the due date. The division is in the process of follow-up on the remaining audit findings to be completed within 60 days. The report on late findings is to include the updated implementation date in order to provide an idea of when corrective actions are to be implemented.

Budget, Finance and Facilities

Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Moore for the committee's report. First, she reported that Trustee Mills was elected vice chair of the committee. The committee also recommended approval of the 2017-18 preliminary budget (including the Strategic Plan Budget), approval of amendments to BOT Regulation 3.017 (including the 2017-18 Tuition and Fees schedule), the capital improvement program, and the Palmetto Street easement.

Trustee Moore reported that the Committee heard presentations on the facilities capital project updates and cost savings.

Direct Support Organizations

Trustee Dave Lawrence, Vice Chair

Committee vice chair Trustee Dave Lawrence reported that current giving as of June 7, 2017, is \$7.4M in cash and pledges, compared to approximately \$5.7M this same period last year. The average gift amount this year is \$2,070 compared to \$1,365 in 2016.

He stated that after discussion regarding fund raising during the committee meeting, it was recommended that staff do the following:

- Between now and the August board retreat, have conversations with Chairman Kelvin Lawson, and Interim President Larry Robinson;
- Provide a long and short-term fund raising strategy;
- Start with a target amount;
- Interview trustees to obtain their thoughts, input, and resources; and
- Return to the Board in August with an aggressive plan and a comprehensive strategy.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees



Governance

Trustee Gary McCoy

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Gary McCoy for the Governance Committee report. Trustee McCoy reported that the committee selected Trustee Mills as vice chair.

Next, Trustee McCoy reported that Trustee Moore updated the Committee on her involvement with the Board of Governor's presidential delegation work group, which included chairs and vice chairs of the State University System Boards of Trustees. Attorney Thomas then reviewed suggested revisions to the "Presidential Delegation of Authority", which were approved by the Committee. FAMU's presidential delegation of authority is included in FAMU Regulation 1.021, Authority of the President. The substantive changes in the delegation of authority include:

1. Requiring the President to consult with the BOT chair on hiring, dismissal or compensation of any person serving in a vice president capacity, as the athletic director, or head coach, or other executive direct report position to the president or BOT.
2. Allowing the President to take action after consultation with BOT chair and the CFO, for settlement of claims greater than 100K, but less than 250K.
3. Requiring the President or designee to get BOT approval for settlements at or in excess of 250K.
4. Adding language to state that all settlements shall be consistent with Florida Statutes.

Trustee McCoy indicated that Attorney Thomas explained that other changes included a full reorganization of the regulation, aligning it with the BOG regulation and including current powers that were located in other policies, regulations or laws. The committee also agreed to perform a review of presidential authority biennially and would include that requirement in the committee's annual "Action Plan Matrix."

Lastly, Trustee McCoy shared that a final report regarding the Board performance survey would be provided at the Board's retreat in August.

Law

Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair

Trustee Perry reported that the special committee on the College of Law met yesterday are went over its scope of review. The review will include the following issues:

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Board of Trustees**



1. American Bar Association Accreditation
2. Bar passage rate
3. Faculty quality and composition
4. Recruitment
5. Job Placement
6. Internships and clerkships
7. Student morale
8. Attrition rate
9. Community perception of law school
10. Communication Plan/Strategy

Next, he stated that Dean Leroy Pernell provided an update on the College of Law and emphasized that the law school is fully accredited. He also reported that:

- the college's attrition rate has improved;
- an external review of career services was just completed and a substantial reorganization will occur;
- when the new clinical director is hired, that person will oversee externships;
- He plans to work with the Board of Visitors to offer internship experiences for students;
- He suggested that the College will look at partnering with bar review companies; and
- The applications for admission is up by 30% this year. The college has 1200 applicants this year.

Trustee Perry concluded his report by stating that the Board Liaison will work with the committee to schedule a site visit. The committee will plan to have a day and a half meeting. The Committee will meet from 6-8:30 pm the first day and 8:30am to 3:30 pm the next day. During that visit, the committee will look at the 10 items for review stated above and bring a report back to the Board in September.

Presidential Review

Trustee Bettye Grable

Trustee Grable shared that the Presidential Review Committee met yesterday. She indicated that the committee and select members of the Board attended several stakeholder meetings with our students, general faculty, the Faculty Senate and members of the FAMU National Alumni Association. The purpose of those meetings was to gather input to assist the consultants, RHR International, in preparing a presidential profile. The consulting group is also speaking with each trustee individually to garner further input regarding the profile.

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Board of Trustees**



Chair Lawson shared that the National Alumni Association (NAA), the FAMU Foundation Board, and the Boosters gave Dr. Larry Robinson a vote of confidence during the NAA national convention. Finally, Chair Lawson confirmed that the Board will meet with the consultants during the Board retreat in August.

Strategic Planning and Performance Measures

Trustee Kimberly Moore

Trustee Kimberly Moore presented the report for the committee. She stated that the committee elected Trustee Craig Reed to serve as vice chair of the committee. The Committee recommended approval of the new Vision Statement and the Strategic Plan. The committee was also updated on the faculty workload study that the University will conduct over the next several months.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Lawson identified each item on the consent agenda and asked if there were any changes. Trustee Moore stated that BFF3 should read “Capital Improvement Plan”. Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was moved for approval by Trustee Carter and seconded by Trustee Lawrence and the motion carried. The consent agenda included the following items:

Board of Trustees (BT)

BT1 March 28, 2017 Minutes

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)

ASA1 Tenure
ASA2 2017-2018 Work Plan
ASA3 Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave
ASA4 Academic Honesty Regulation/Policy

Audit and Compliance (AC)

AC1 Compliance Charter
AC2 DSO Audit Reports

Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)

BFF1 Approval of Budget
BFF2 Amendment to Regulation 3.017
BFF3 Capital Improvement Plan

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Board of Trustees**



BFF4 Palmetto Street Easement

Governance Committee

G1 Presidential Delegation of Authority

Special Committee on Athletics (SCA)

SCA1 Multi-year Employment Agreement

Strategic Planning and Performance Measures Committee (SPPM)

SPPM1 Proposed Vision Statement

SPPM2 Strategic Plan

Trustee Grable asked for clarification regarding the name of the Presidential Review Committee. Chair Lawson indicated that the name of the committee should be the Presidential Leadership Committee.

Chair Lawson asked President Robinson to present a brief legislative update. President Robinson stated that the University received \$1 million for engineering faculty, in addition to the \$1 million to support on-line courses and \$3.5 million to assist with the construction of the Center for Access and Student Success (CASS). He stated that during the current “Special Session”, there is a possibility that FAMU could benefit from a bill regarding medical marijuana research. President Robinson also informed the Board that the University has already begun working on the 2018/2019 legislative priorities that will be included in the Legislative Budget Request (LBR).

President Robinson reminded the Board that the University will have a ground-breaking ceremony for the CASS building at 1:00 p.m. He also thanked the Black Caucus and the local legislators for their help during the session.

Upon the requests of Trustees Carter and Grable, Chair Lawson indicated that future Board agendas would include time for updates from the faculty trustee, as well as the student trustee.

Lastly, Trustee Bruno indicated that several members of the Marching 100 inquired about having their eligibility to participate in the band extended. He stated that he looked forward to working with the administration on this matter.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.