

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY  
Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes  
September 24, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Linda Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Cavazos, Harper, Lawrence, Lawson, McClinton, Moore, Perry, and Washington. Trustees Dortch, Reed and Woody did not attend the meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no comments.

**FAMU DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH SCHOOL:**

Chair Lawson recognized Dr. Allyson Watson, Dean of the College of Education for an update on FAMU Developmental Research School (DRS). Dean Watson indicated that the Florida Department of Education approved the comprehensive reopening plan submitted by the DRS in July. The plan provided for hybrid instruction, distance learning and 5-day face-to-face instruction. She reported that the DRS currently has 634 students, with 460 remote and 174 enrolled in hybrid or face-to-face instruction.

On September 21, 2020, the entire school district moved to remote learning due to two confirmed COVID-19 cases on campus. Dr. Watson stated that 13 staff and several students were being quarantined with a re-entry date of October 5, 2020. During this period, the school is being sanitized and thoroughly cleaned. The University's Reopening Task Force is working closely with the DRS regarding this matter.

Dean Watson also shared that the DRS will maintain its "C" grade from last year, as there were no new grades issued due to COVID-19. She also informed the Board that state student testing was waived. She said that the DRS has implemented MAP testing, which measures academic progress and that student performance and academic achievement gaps and deficiencies will be closely monitored.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Academic and Student Affairs**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair*

Trustee Washington reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended approval of the Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report and tenure

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upon appointment for Dr. Shelley Johnson, Dean of the School of Nursing. She also shared that the Committee also heard updates about the FAMU Developmental Research School.

**Special Committee on Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson reported that the Special Committee on Athletics met on September 17, 2020. The Committee recommended approval of the amendment to the contracts of VP/AD Gosha and Coach Willie Simmons. The amendments reflect a temporary 7% salary reduction due to Covid 19 financial implications.

Next, he reported that the committee recommended approval of a new apparel contract with adidas Inc. for the Athletics Department, with the condition that University's legal team review additional clauses within contract.

The Committee also heard updates regarding Peak Sports Media Group, Daktronics, Crown Castle and the \$10M Blueprint grant . VP/AD Gosha informed the Committee that Athletics closed the FY20 budget with a balanced budget and presented the year-to-date projections showing a balanced budget in FY21.

**Special Committee on the College of Law**

*Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair*

Trustee Perry stated that Dean Keller met with the Committee and shared that the current enrollment is 475, with 35 full-time faculty. She indicated that there are several key indicators that correlate with bar passage, including the LSAT score, the undergraduate GPA, the size of the cohort and the first year GPA. Dean Keller stated that the College should consider improving the quality of incoming cohorts. The 2020 cohort GPA was 2.7.

Dean Keller discussed the diagnostics that students would be provided pre-matriculation and after completing the foundational curriculum. She also discussed the bar preparation that will begin at admission and continue until the graduate passes the bar examination.

Trustee Perry shared that Dean Keller plans to meet individually with faculty members to discuss their goals and that the College will provide faculty development opportunities regarding best practices.

The contract for College of Law's consultant, Barry Currier's is under final review and will run through May 2021. He will provide a comprehensive report and will have monthly one-on-one status meetings with Trustee Perry and Dean Keller.

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chair Lawson reviewed the Consent Agenda. Trustee Perry moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence and the motion carried, without opposition.

The consent agenda included the following items:

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)**

ASA1 Tenure Upon Appointment for Shelley Johnson, Dean of the School  
of Nursing

ASA2 Textbook Affordability Report

**Special Committee on Athletics (SCA)**

SCA1 Contract Revisions – Simmons and Gosha

SCA2 Apparel Contract

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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