

**Special Committee on Athletics Minutes**

**Chair Kelvin Lawson**

**Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. Ms. Karai Lockley – Senior Associate Athletic Director of Business and Finance/Senior Woman Administrator called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Ann Marie Cavazos, Trustee Thomas Dortch Trustee David Lawrence, Trustee Xavier McClinton, and Chair/Trustee Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson opened with informing the board that the Athletics' budget would be discussed during the overall organizational budget meeting on Friday, August 7, 2020.

The next item on the Special Committee was for VP/AD Kortne Gosha's to begin his presentation on conference realignment, facility upgrades and Covid-19 impact on Fall sports.

VP/AD Gosha explained to the board there are no financial obligations pending within the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference that would hinder Florida A&M moving to the Southwestern Atlantic Conference. Letters of release of been submitted to the MEAC and all institutions within the MEAC conference. Moving to the SWAC will ultimately give Florida A&M an expansion of recruitment efforts not only for athletics but for the general body.

HBCU Change was introduced to the fundraising efforts within Athletics. This platform is an app that allows for a donor to give by rounding their change to the nearest dollar after every purchase which will go straight to Florida A&M Athletics. The 'All In' campaign is in phase 1 and since late March has raised approximately \$400k with a \$750k goal for football facility enhancements (phase 2 will be centered around Bragg Memorial Stadium).

Florida A&M Athletics has many capital improvements that are in the works – like turfing the softball field which will be cost effective over time due to maintenance that is not as robust as natural turf. Baseball and Track/Field now have locker rooms to store belongings, have team meetings, etc. The roof of the fieldhouse is being replaced along with new lockers/locker room – all should be completed by September 2020.

Covid-19 has ultimately impacted the department with having all Fall sports postponed – however – all Fall sport competitions will move to the Spring. Also because of Covid-19 – the department will implement a temporary salary decrease on all employees (including VP/AD Gosha), OPS assistant coaches have not been renewed and many positions have been consolidated to manage through the current budget challenges.

The Athletics Department has created their own policy and procedure manual on protocols for testing and facility usage during the pandemic.