

**SUMMARY MINUTES
FAMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Friday, March 30, 2012**

Chairman Solomon Badger called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He recognized Attorney Fuse-Hall for the roll. The following trustees were present: Chairman Badger, Trustee Torey Alston, Trustee William Jennings, Trustee Charles Langston, Trustee Kelvin Lawson, Trustee Breyon Love, Trustee Rufus Montgomery, Trustee Narayan Persaud, Trustee Belinda Reed Shannon, and Trustee Karl White. A quorum was established.

Chairman Badger noted that since the board met a week ago (March 23, 2012), I understand that there have been many concerns that the Anti-Hazing Committee and an apparent change in its mode of operations, namely acting as “fact-finding” committee. “Our constituents around the state and across the nation, have expressed concerns” and required that the board convene and revisit the matter. The ability for our constituents to participate in these meetings and to hear the exchange of ideas is critically important on this topic of hazing.

Chairman Badger opened the floor for a motion in order to begin discussion. Trustee Alston moved that the board change the charge of the FAMU Anti-Hazing Committee from “fact-finding” to one that will “make recommendations.” Trustee Lawson seconded the motion.

Out of respect for her position as the trustee liaison to the Anti-Hazing Committee, Chairman Badger recognized Trustee Shannon for comments.

Trustee Shannon thanked the Chairman and noted the following:

First, I want to clarify several items about the committee’s work that have been characterized differently from the committee’s actual work. The mission of this committee did not change. The committee, a group of notable experts, is gathering research and information regarding hazing to:

1. Discuss specific focus areas of the committee, primarily the three goals outlined in the Crisis Management Plan;

2. Preliminarily assigned tasks among committee members grouped around the three goals; and
3. Discussed the best operational approach to meet the goals of the committee.

In organizing themselves, this latter goal, the operational approach, was one of the focal areas for the committee to clarify before they launched into their work. With a number of academics on the call, the goal was to permit spontaneous discussions of ideas among colleagues. Seeking clarification upfront was essential, so as professors are exchanging ideas, they do not run afoul of the law by inadvertently having a meeting "in the shade," would have occurred by accident.

She reminded committee members of her comments last week,

Members need to be able to, on a regular and on-going basis, communicate with each other and share ideas and additional tasks. There needs to be the ability to exchange ideas among members, often on a one-on-one basis or between one or two committee members and me as information is accumulated and organized for the Board of Trustees. Communication among AHC members will be vital for the efficient completion of the committee's work.

Further, the "Sunshine Laws" clearly **permit** an advisory committee, like the Anti-Hazing Committee, to act in an information gathering or "fact-finding" mode. Further, let me clarify that "fact-finding" is not investigative in nature. The law notes that information gathering as "fact-finding" and that's why the term was used. Further, we need to be clear that fact-finding is just about information gathering without "decision-making" authority. The committee does not have decision making authority. It can complete its work and submit its report to the board. This committee was created to provide information to the board in order for the board, as the decision-making, public body, can make informed decisions or recommendations to the administration regarding these three (3) goals.

Trustee Shannon provided an update on the meeting that the anti-hazing committee held yesterday. Trustee Shannon deferred to the chair of the committee, Attorney

Stephen Robinson for comments. He reiterated the nature of the committee to operate as an advisory committee vs. fact-finding to facilitate the work of the committee. Further, he noted that several committee members may resign if they could not have more flexibility in conferring with each other. The board discussed this matter before the question was called.

The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind Fuse-Hall

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Assistant Secretary