

**Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 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, Cliatt, Dortch, Dubose, Harper, Lawrence, Lawson, Moore, Perry, Reed, and Stone. Trustees McClinton and Washington were not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no requests for public comments.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, President*

Chair Lawson recognized President Robinson for his report. President Robinson provided an overview of the Performance Based Funding (PBF) metrics, his annual goals and the key performance indicators from the *Strategic Plan*.

The preliminary data indicates that FAMU will show an improvement on eight (8) of the metrics and preliminary results indicate this will be the University’s best PBF score. President Robinson noted that the University was making significant strides with improving the graduation rates by increasing five (5) percentage points over last year. There was a 9.2 percentage point increase in FTIC students retained from the fall 2019 cohort with at least a 2.0 GPA..

President Robinson then provided an update on his annual goals.

<b>Annual Goals</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Year-To-Date</b>	<b>2021 Goal</b>
1. Increase the University’s four-year graduation rate	27.7%	33.2%	35.0%
2. Increase the second-year retention rate (Second Fall Retention Rate with at least a 2.0 GPA for Full-time FTIC students)	73.0%	82.2%	86.0%
3. Increase the percent of baccalaureate degrees awarded without excess hours	53.5%	56.2%	62.0%
4. Develop and execute action plans that deliver first-time licensure pass rates	0 of 4	TBD	1 of 4
5. Increase annual giving and increase the annual alumni giving rate	\$7.3M 7%	\$9.0M TBD	\$7.7M 9%

6. Increase Total R&D Expenditures	\$44.0M	\$30.6M	\$43.0M
<b>Annual Goals</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Year-To-Date</b>	<b>2021 Goal</b>
7. Enhance Organizational Leadership: (7.1) Emergency Management, (7.2) Staffing Efficiency, (7.3) Effective Decision Making, (7.4) Operational Efficiencies	N/A	TBD	Implement all 4 Deliverables
8. Strengthen the University's financial health: (8.1) Financial Health, (8.2) Strategic Resource Allocations, (8.3) Operational Control, (8.4) Sustainability, (8.5) Athletics	Debt Ratio = 1.88 Reserve Balance = 7% Increase Reserve by 1%	TBD	Debt Ratio $\geq 1.0$ Maintain Reserve Balance = 7% Increase Reserve by 1%
9. Continue to expand relationship-building with key stakeholders	100% engagement across all stakeholders	TBD	100% engagement across all stakeholders

President Robinson shared that eleven (11) of the strategic plan key performance indicators show an improvement. He then focused on the six (6) strategic priorities, progress, and achievements. He reaffirmed that student success is the number one (1) priority for the University. He shared that the University continued its efforts to increase our student success regarding retention and graduation rates, degree productivity, and completion of courses taken.

Next, President Robinson shared the achievements of several faculty members. He said that the research endeavors, high-impact research practices, and academic rigor of the faculty, is around \$30.6 million in research expenditures for the current year, placing the University on track to meet the goal for this year.

President Robinson reported that the campus infrastructure, service offerings, and instructional facilities have been enhanced, with the opening of the new Center for Academic and Student Success. The University has also enhanced classrooms through the FAMUFLEX environment, which provides students the opportunity to choose to attend weekly class meetings on campus or remotely. Using the Zoom video conferencing and webcam technology, the equipment enabled two-way communication between the classroom and remote students to hear each other.

Next, President Robinson discussed the University's effort to work in the community. He shared that FAMU partnered with the Bond Community Health Center and Leon County Health departments to open a COVID-19 testing site and a vaccination site which is helping to reach the surrounding community seven days a week.

President Robinson highlighted Strategic Priority 4: Business Engagement. He said that the University has surpassed its goal of raising \$7.7M for the academic year. To date, the University

has raised \$9M. He also shared that he has engaged with several corporations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bank of America, Truist, Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, Badia Spices and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency.

President Robinson explained that the Congressional Omnibus Appropriations and Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act included the HBCU Capital Finance Debt Relief Act provided the University with \$111 million in debt forgiveness. The CARES Act funds that the University received helped offset some, but not all of the financial challenges resulting from COVID-19.

Moving to Strategic Priority Number 6 - Outstanding Customer Experiences, the University has provided tips and tools for staff to promote service excellence. Information is sent out via FAMUINFO monthly and includes stakeholder relationships.

President Robinson indicated that he has met with House and Senate leaders regarding the University's *Legislative Budget Request*. He is advocating for an increase to the base budget allocation to address academic enhancements and the Joint College of Engineering as well as maintaining resources for the Crestview Center and restoring funding for the Black Male College Explorers Program. He stated that the University's virtual "FAMU Day at the Capitol" is April 1, 2021.

In closing, President Robinson stated that the University will hold five in-person commencement ceremonies for Spring 2021, April 23, 2021 through April 25, 2021.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE:**

Chair Lawson recognized Rica Calhoun for an update on the University's efforts to address COVID-19. Mrs. Calhoun shared that faculty and staff are being tested for COVID every two weeks. She said that the positivity rate at FAMU is less than 1%. The University continues its surveillance and enforcement of mitigation measures and is preparing for the summer and fall. As a final highlight, she indicated that the University is now offering vaccines in partnership with the Florida Department of Health.

### **FACULTY SENATE REPORT:**

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Cavazos for the Faculty Senate report. Trustee Cavazos acknowledged that the faculty has proven to be resilient throughout the pandemic and continues to strive for excellence. She further informed that Board about the accomplishments of several faculty members. These faculty members have been appointed to positions in their professional organizations, authored impactful articles and held insightful panel discussions with students. She said that the FAMU faculty continues to raise the bar and do great things.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Academic and Student Affairs**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Vice Chair*

Trustee Harper reported that the Committee recommended approval of:

- Sabbaticals and professional development leaves
- An honorary doctorate degree for Thomas “Tom” Joyner, and
- An honorary doctorate degree for Adora Nweze.

She said these items are included on the consent agenda for full board approval. The Committee also heard updates on admission applications and enrollment and the Universities efforts to increase mental health supports.

### **Budget, Finance and Facilities**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair*

Trustee Moore reported that the Committee had five action items including the committee meeting minutes, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, Budget, Accounts Receivable write-offs, and revisions to BOT Policy 2005-05 and BOT Policy 2008-01A. The Committee also heard updates from the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station and the University Housing Department.

### **Direct Support Organizations**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch stated that the Committee recommended approval of newly elected directors and re-elected directors whose terms expired in December 2020. He said that as of February 26, 2021, the University had raised over \$9M. FAMU students have taken on the challenge of giving \$18.87 and President Robinson had committed to matching the students' giving. He stated that trustees were asked to consider serving as match-donors. He recognized Trustee Dubose and his wife for donating over \$100K to the University.

### **Governance Committee**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch shared that the Governance Committee heard a presentation from the University's director of government relations Attorney Danielle McBeth. The Committee was also provided information regarding important submission dates regarding the president's goals, the president's evaluation and the Board's self-assessment.

### **Special Committee on Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson reported that the Committee recommended approval of the high-level contents of an agreement with Nike. It also heard several informational items including an update on Bragg Stadium and information regarding the Athletics Department's third year in a row having a balanced budget.

### **Special Committee on the College of Law**

*Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair*

Trustee Perry reported that the Committee heard an update from Dean Deidre Keller, who reported that the American Bar Association found the College of Law in compliance with its bar passage rate standard and maintains its status as an approved college of law. He shared that the College of Law consultant Barry Currier provided an update to the Committee on some of his findings regarding career planning and professional development, student services, the budget and the academic program at the College. Dean Keller will update the timeline for his deliverables.

The Committee acknowledged that it would meet with the faculty of the College to gather additional information regarding the College.

### **Strategic Planning and Performance Measures Committee**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Chair*

Trustee Harper shared that the Committee discussed the upcoming strategic planning process, including a timeline showing three phases and the expected accomplished that will be made between March 2021- June 2022. The plan will incorporate feedback from the University's stakeholders through focus group surveys. There will also be discussions regarding the guiding principles that will be used to develop the new plan. The goal is to present the new strategic plan to the Board of Trustees for approval in June 2022.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chair Lawson reviewed the Consent Agenda. Trustee Reed reminded Chair Lawson that he had not presented the Audit Committee report. Trustee Reed shared that the minutes were the Audit Committee's only action item. Chair Lawson then added the Audit Committee minutes to the consent agenda. He stated that that the Board needed to remove the revision to Policy 2005-05, Preparation and Submission of Budget, from the Consent Agenda, upon advice of counsel. He said the action to temporarily approve the policy in the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee was not an appropriate action. He indicated that VP Wallace would explain and that the Board would handle it separately, after voting on the consent agenda.

Trustee Moore moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Perry and the motion carried, without opposition.

The consent agenda included the following items:

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

- BT1 December 3, 2020
- BT2 February 26, 2021

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

- ASA1 Sabbatical and professional Development Leave
- ASA2 Honorary Doctorate Degree – Thomas “Tom” Joyner
- ASA3 Honorary Doctorate Degree – Adora Nweze

**Audit and Compliance Committee (AC)**

- AC1 Committee Minutes

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)**

- BFF1 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Budget
- BFF2 Accounts Receivable Write-offs
- BFF3 Revision to BOT Policy 2008-01A: Enterprise Information Systems Security and Controls

**Direct Support Organizations Committee (DSO)**

- DSO1 FAMU Foundation Board of Directors – New Members

**Special Committee on Athletics (SCA)**

- SCA1 Apparel Agreement

Chair Lawson then addressed the item that was removed from the agenda - Revision to BOT Policy 2005-05 Preparation and Submission of Budget. Trustee Moore moved that the items be removed from the agenda and sent back to committee for further analysis. The motion was seconded by Trustee Perry.

Attorney Wallace explained that there is no way to temporarily approve a policy once a policy is approved and it becomes permanent until it is repealed. She recommended that it is tabled or that it goes back to the committee, for further considerations.

Trustee Dortch called the question and the motion was approved unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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