

**Governance Committee Minutes  
December 4, 2024**

Trustee Stone called the Governance Committee meeting to order, and the following committee members were in attendance and established a quorum: Trustees John Crossman, Natlie Figgers, Kelvin Lawson, Belvin Perry, Craig Reed and Kenny Stone. The committee approved the September 12, 2024 meeting minutes.

Next, President Beard began the discussion, based on the feedback from the Board, by presenting his modified, qualitative goals, focusing on policies and procedures to improve the four-year graduation rate and licensure pass rates to ensure the ultimate goals for 2027 are met. He stated that the entire Board would have an opportunity to have a more thorough review of the goals during the Board meeting the following day. Chair Harper provided additional, in-depth highlights of specific goal adjustments based on Interim President Beard's tenure as well as what he could accomplish during his time in this capacity, stating, as it relates to the four-year graduation rate, articulation agreements with Florida college system institutions that will weigh into the University's metrics and performance-based funding attributes were added, modified and developed. Also, as it relates to licensure passage rates, not only were achieving four of four licensure pass rates across the four programs of emphasis maintained but modifications to the policies and ensuring practices were in place were added to maximize those outcomes. Judge Simone Marteller is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the law school's performance, including instructional, pedagogical, and comparisons of other institutions, with recommendations presented during the February 2025 meeting. Chair Harper highlighted changes implemented at the College of Law, such as making the bar prep courses mandatory, reviewing the curriculum, ensuring appropriate courses are required to prepare students for bar passage and pedagogical training with professors, and pledged her support. Committee members expressed concerns about implementing the consultant's recommendations and the dean turnover rate at the College of Law. The committee also discussed the scope of the consultant's assessment for the pharmacy program, with recommendations expected by the February 2025 meeting. Trustee Reed suggested that the Board be provided with an execution plan with completion dates to understand better the requirements needed to achieve the goals. The goals for fundraising were discussed, with committee members suggesting an increase to reflect current trends and potential. Securing a Vice President of Advancement who is a fundraiser was also emphasized. Trustee Lawson moved approval of President Beard's 2024-2025 goals with the caveat of the Chair and President Beard revisiting the fundraising goal. The motion was seconded by Trustee Perry and was approved unanimously.

The final agenda item was the Government Relations update from Vice President Jamal Sowell. He began by highlighting the fall activities, including the fall election campaigns, meetings with the Board of Governors staff, campus visits by the Governor's staff, Senator Rubio's and Congressman Dunn's offices, and Senator Scott's staff at the College of Law. VP Sowell presented the legislative calendar, highlighting important federal and state session dates, including April 9, 2025, FAMU Day at the Capitol, and May 2025 FY 2026-2027 BOT Legislative

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Budget Review dates. He also discussed the University's requests/focus areas for one-time and recurring dollars for the upcoming legislative sessions. The top three focus areas currently include security hardening (enhancements of infrastructure including hurricane shelter needs for state use), operational enhancements (faculty, staff compensation, employee recruitment, retention, and training), and the law school (recruitment and retention of highly qualified law students, employ new faculty and student support staff). The Board also discussed the need for legislators to visit the main campus and satellite sites to tour the facilities and interact with students. VP Sowell announced the initiative that has begun to invite federal and state legislators, Governor's office and staff, members of the Board of Governors and local officials to campus during board meetings and other events to nurture relationships, build loyalty, familiarity and advocacy. Afterward, VP Sowell presented the federal and state delegation, which included the newcomers, alums in Congress, state legislators, and the current Rattler caucus members. The Florida Legislative leaders include Senate President Ben Albritton – Bartow, Senate President Pro Tempore Jason Brodeur – Lake Mary, Florida House Speaker Daniel Perez – Miami, and Florida House Speaker Pro Tempore Wyman Duggan – Jacksonville. Members of the Senate and House Committee Leadership in Agriculture, Appropriations, Agriculture Appropriations, Higher Education Appropriations, Pre-K-12 Appropriations, Education Postsecondary, Education Pre-K-12, Budget, and Education & Employment Committee were also mentioned. The Rattlers in Congress are Representative Janelle Bynum - Oregon's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Representative David Scott – Georgia, Representative Al Green -Texas, and Representative Byron Donalds – Florida. The current Rattler Caucus members include Senators Shevrin Jones, Rosalind Osgood and Darryl Rouson and Representatives Lavon Bracy Davis and Gallop Franklin, II.

As a final note, Trustee Stone announced the committee decision to table the discussion on proposed changes to the operating procedures to align with sister institutions in the SUS, the BOG, and other governing boards and will continue to workshop potential changes at the February 2025 meeting. Board members are requested to submit any recommended changes to Mr. Tola Thompson, Board Liaison, as soon as possible.

With there being no further business for the committee, the meeting adjourned.