

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

Governance Committee Minutes
February 12, 2025
9:45 a.m.

Call to Order

Trustee Belvin Perry called the Governance Committee meeting to order. The following committee members were in attendance and established a quorum:

- Trustee Earnest Ellison
- Trustee Natlie Figgers
- Trustee Emery Gainey
- Trustee Kristin Harper
- Trustee Belvin Perry (Chair)
- Trustee Michael White

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 4, 2024, meeting.

Trustee Perry announced that discussions on proposed amendments to the board's operating procedures will take place during the board's retreat, due to the recent appointments of new committee chairs.

President's Annual Evaluation & Board Self-Evaluation Timelines

The committee reviewed the timeline for the president's annual evaluation and the board's self-evaluation.

- Mr. Thompson will collaborate with Trustee Perry and Dr. Beard to schedule a meeting prior to the May 30, 2025 deadline to discuss the evaluation process and any feedback/suggestions.
- The Board Liaison will send the self-assessment survey link to the Board of Trustees on July 1, 2025. The survey is due by July 15, 2025.
- Trustee Perry encouraged all board members to complete the survey by July 10, 2025, to avoid a rush and ensure timely submission for analysis.
- The Board Liaison will send the president's evaluation and board's self-assessment timelines to all board members and will send reminders as the deadline dates approach. *Note: Dates are subject to change.*

Government Relations Update

Vice President Jamal Sowell provided a Government Relations update and introduced Milan Thompson, a valued member of the Government Relations team.

- **Legislative Calendar:**
 - March 4, 2025: Florida Legislative Session start date
 - March 25, 2025: FAMU Trustee Lobbying Day

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- April 9, 2025: FAMU Day at the Capitol
- June 11-12, 2025: FY 2026-2027 BOT Legislative Budget Review dates
- **Legislative Strategy:** VP Sowell will present talking points and outlined plans for monthly legislative strategy training sessions with University stakeholders to ensure consistency when discussing the University's priorities with legislators.
- **Governor DeSantis' Budget:** VP Sowell discussed the Governor's recommended budget, announced on February 3, 2025. He noted that the budget is subject to change.
 - A decline in recurring state funding to universities is expected.
 - Trustees requested revisiting discussions with Blueprint Tallahassee to explore local funding solutions for the University's outstanding needs and research non-recurring state funding for various projects.
- **FY2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request:** The legislative budget request will focus on non-recurring items, including College of Law, security hardening, and operational enhancements.
- **Rattler Caucus and Legislative Leadership:** The 2025 Rattler Caucus and legislative leadership were announced.
- **Federal Lobbying and Legislative Events:** VP Sowell provided updates on federal lobbying efforts and upcoming legislative events.
- **Florida Board of Governors Meeting:** Chair Kristin Harper announced that the Florida Board of Governors meeting will be held on the campus of Florida A&M University on March 26, 2025. She encouraged everyone to attend.
- **Roster of Rattlers in Legislative Roles:** The committee requested a roster of Rattlers in legislative roles at the national level to enhance collaborations.

Adjournment

With no further business, Trustee Perry adjourned the meeting.