

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

**Governance Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
**9:45 a.m.**  
**or upon the adjournment of the prior meeting**

**Committee Members:** Belvin Perry, Chair  
Earnest Ellison, Natlie Figgers, Emery Gainey, Kristin Harper, and Michael White

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order Trustee Belvin Perry
- II. Roll Call Tola Thompson, BOT Liaison

**ACTION ITEMS**

- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes Trustee Perry
- December 4, 2024

**INFORMATION ITEM**

- IV. Timelines: Trustee Perry
- a. President's Annual Evaluation
  - b. Board's Annual Self-Evaluation
- V. Government Relations Update VP Jamal Sowell
- VI. Adjournment

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

**Governance Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
**Agenda Item III**

**Subject :** Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

**Rationale:** Section 5.10 of the Board of Trustees Operating Procedures provides that detailed minutes should be kept for any Board or Committee meeting. Those minutes should include a record of votes cast and attendance.

**Recommendation:** Approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes for December 4, 2024.

**Attachments:** Yes, copies of the minutes are attached.

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

**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.

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INFORMATION ITEM

**Governance Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
**Agenda Item: IV a**

**Subject:** Presidential Evaluation Timeline

**Background Information and Summary:** The Board of Trustees conducts an annual evaluation of the president's performance for the prior year. The attached document provides the timeline for conducting the president's evaluation.

**Attachments:** President's Evaluation Timeline

# President's Evaluation 2024/2025 Review Period

Due Date	Action
05/02-30/2025	The Governance Committee Chair will meet with President Beard to discuss the following: The evaluation process; and Any feedback/suggestions he would like to contribute related to the aforementioned items.
05/31/2025 – 07/14/2025	President Beard will complete a self-appraisal/assessment of his performance regarding the Board approved goals and objectives for the 2024/2025 performance review period and other such criteria as deemed appropriate by the Board. His self-appraisal is due on July 14, 2025.
07/15/2025 – 07/26/2025	Each Board member will evaluate President Beard's performance for 2024/2025 and will be provided the following: President Beard's self-appraisal and the approved evaluation tool for the 2024/2025 performance review period. Chair Harper will confer with SUS Chancellor Rodrigues to garner his feedback regarding President Beard's performance.  <i>Note: The Governance Committee, in collaboration with the Office of University Assessment, will compile the feedback received from the individual board members.</i>
08/2025	The Governance Committee will provide President Beard with a draft summary of the evaluation report.
08/06/2025	The Governance Committee will meet and approve its final draft of the evaluation report.
08/07/2025	The Governance Committee will present the evaluation report to the Board for approval.

*Note: These dates may be changed as deemed necessary.*

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**Board of Trustees  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**Governance Committee  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
Agenda Item: IV b**

**Subject:** Board of Trustees Self-Assessment

**Background Information and Summary:** The Board of Trustees' Governance Committee Charter provides that the Board will conduct a self-assessment annually. Additionally, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges, Principles of Accreditation 4.2(g) requires governing boards to regularly evaluate their responsibilities and expectations.

The timeline is attached.

## Board of Trustees 2024/2025 Self-Assessment

Due Date

Action

July 1, 2025

The BOT Liaison will send the self-assessment survey link to the Board of Trustees

July 15, 2025

Board members will complete the self-assessment survey.

July 15-28, 2025

The University's Office of Assessment will analyze the assessment and draft a report, which will be disseminated to the BOT.

July 29, 2025

The self-assessment report will be provided to the Trustees.

August 6, 2025

The Governance Committee will recommend to the Board the next steps that should be addressed as a result of the self-assessment survey.

August 7, 2025

The Board of Trustees will review and accept the self-assessment.

*Note: These dates may be changed as deemed necessary.*