

Governance Committee Minutes
Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair
June 1, 2022

The Governance Committee met on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. A quorum was established, with the following committee members in attendance: Thomas Dortch, Michael Dubose, Kimberly Moore, Belvin Perry, Kenny Stone, and Nicole Washington.

The first action item was approving the February 16, 2022 and April 19, 2022 committee meeting minutes. Trustee Moore moved approval of the minutes. Trustee Dubose seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Trustee Dortch recognized Attorney Shira Thomas who provided an update on the Board’s Operating Procedures (OPs). She reported that the General Counsel had provided the Committee with the operating procedures of other institutions in the State University System (SUS). She said they also provided a chart regarding the officer selection procedures for those institutions. Attorney Thomas’ feedback included the following comments:

- FAMU’s Operating Procedures were very similar to the other operating procedures in the state university system. She said there were some differences in the selection process, but they are essentially very consistent with the SUS.
- Article 1 gives the Board’s intent regarding the purpose of the OPs. Five of the 12 SUS institutions have this same language.
- All SUS institution OPs include language regarding the corporation's name and the Board's composition, so Articles 2.1 and 2.2 are consistent with the SUS.
- There were questions regarding using “selection” rather than “election” in Article 3.2. She noted that the Board of Governors uses the term “selection,” and seven other SUS institutions use “select.” The other five institutions use both words in their OPs.
- FAMU’s OPs officer selection process is consistent with other SUS institutions.
- The special subcommittee should address the concern regarding who would oversee BOT elections.
- Most SUS institutions had language that mirrors FAMU’s OP regarding the vice chair’s role in the chair's absence, vacancy, or disability. Some added that they should only do this temporarily.
- FAMU has a term appointment limit for service on the Executive Committee (committee chairs); however, in the other SUS procedures, the chair has the power to appoint committee chairs, and there are no service limitations.

Trustee Dortch appointed Trustees Moore, Perry, and himself to the subcommittee that will review the OPs and bring recommendations back to the Committee.

Trustee Dortch commended Danielle McBeth for the successful legislative season. Ms. McBeth shared that the Legislative Budget Request for next year is due on July 15, 2022. Session highlights included legislative approval of the following items:

- \$5M – Elevating and Sustaining Student Success

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- \$6.2M FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
- \$1.5M College of Pharmacy Peaden Education Center
- \$27.7M Campus-wide Utility Infrastructure
- \$1M School of Nursing allocation
- \$26.9M Deferred Maintenance

The University is awaiting the Governor’s approval of the budget, including the abovementioned items.

Mrs. McBeth shared the anticipated Legislative Budget Request:

- Pursuit of National Rankings
- University of Distinction
- Chemical and Biological Research Laboratory Center
- Historic Preservation and 21st Century Modernization

President Robinson has submitted written Congressional testimony supporting federal programmatic requests. These requests include “Strengthening HBCUs,” “Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants,” “Education Grants for 1890 Institutions,” and “HBCU Capital Financing Program.”

FAMU’s Associate Chief Justice of the Student Supreme Court, Devon Bilford participated in a US House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing, along with two students from Howard and Xavier. They testified about the risk of HBCU bombings, examining federal support.

Trustee Dortch reminded the Committee that the Board will receive its self-evaluation form on July 1, 2022, and the presidential evaluation forms on July 16, 2022.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.