

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

Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kristin Harper, Chair

Chair Harper called the meeting to order. Trustees Aly, Cliatt, Crossman, Figgers, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, May, Perry, Reed, Stone, Washington, and White established a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals presented comments to the Board of Trustees:

- Deborah Payton -Jones
- Matthew Wesley Williams
- Frederick Bryant

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST

Danielle McBeth, Director of Government Affairs, shared that the Legislative Budget Request was modified to request \$55.5M in recurring funding for strategic investments to support the implementation of the University's 5-year strategic plan and to help drive the economy. Last year, the University requested \$45M. She confirmed that she had conferred with Ballard Partners, who acknowledged that the University is on the right path. Trustee Gibbons moved approval of the motion, seconded by Trustee Lawson, and it was approved unanimously.

FAMU FOUNDATION BUDGET AND BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Deveron Gibbons and Dr. Donald Palm, Chief Operating Officer/interim VP for Advancement, indicated that the FAMU Foundation budget and approval of reappointed Foundation board members would be addressed at the Board of Trustees meeting in August.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Larry Robinson, President

President Robinson greeted the Board and highlighted several updates and achievements at FAMU, including:

- Eighty-seven percent of first-time full-time students who started in fall to 2022 returned for their second year.
- The annual giving goal of \$20M has been exceeded, with \$22.3 million dollars raised, including \$20M in cash.

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- Research efforts have been successful, with expenditures reaching \$56M and numerous awards received.
- The focus remains on elevating and sustaining student success, fostering faculty excellence, optimizing operations, and innovations. The action plan for athletics is based on the University's commitment to academic and personal development, communication, financial support, and compliance.
- Considerable progress has been made on the Performance Funding Metrics (PBF) over the last five years.
- The University is committed to strengthening internal controls and improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

President Robinson congratulated several students for their outstanding performance and achievements. He also encouraged the Board to keep up with his goals and the PBF metrics by checking the dashboard and score cards at president@famu.edu.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Trustee Kristin Harper, Board Chair

Chair Harper shared insights from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) Small College Initiative Conference. She emphasized the importance of ongoing Board orientation and understanding the legal and public relations implications of operating in Florida. Harper also attended the groundbreaking for a new 700-bed residence facility and thanked staff for their excellence in response to recent tornado damage. She stressed the need for the Board to operate with one voice, with the chair as the only authorized spokesperson, and mentioned hiring an external firm to investigate a major gift from Batterson Farms Corporation.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT:

Trustee Loryn May, Student Government President

Trustee May introduced herself and her vice president Dacari Williams. She stated that her administration intends to ensure that students have an experience at FAMU that they will remember for a lifetime. The SGA is planning a sequence of events for students this year. She shared that she was elected as internal vice chair of the Florida Student Association (FSA), which represents over 430,000 students.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Trustee Ezzeldine Aly, Faculty Senate President

Trustee Aly stated that he is honored to represent the more than five-hundred faculty at FAMU. He highlighted faculty accomplishments:

- Researchers of the Year - Dr. Ramakrishnan Subramanian, secured a \$10M grant this year;

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- Distinguished Researcher of the Year in Non-STEM – Dr. Huijun Li secured over \$7M in grant funding;
- Excellence Researcher of the Year in STEM – Dr. John S. Luque, who secured over \$2M in grant funding; and
- Emerging Researcher of the Year in STEM – Dr. Shyam Kattel, secured \$21M in grant funding.

Dr. Aly concluded his report by highlighting the Fab Lab in the College of Education.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Nicole Washington, Committee Chair

Trustee Washington reported that the Committee recommended approval of the request for leave of absence for Dr. Elise Simmons, approval of Regulation, 4.008 Religious Holidays, the annual General Education Review, credit hour reduction for biomedical and chemical engineering programs, new degrees Master of Science and aerospace engineering and Doctor of Philosophy in aerospace engineering and tenure applications for twelve faculty members. The committee also heard updates on enrollment, financial aid, hazing prevention, academic program prioritization, the College of Law, FAMU DRS, and post-tenure review.

Audit and Compliance Committee

John Crossman, Vice Chair

Trustee Crossman reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met May 28, 2024 and recommended approval of the Division of Audit 2024 2025 work plan. Chief Compliance Officer Rica Calhoun provided several informational items, while VP Maleszewski and AVP Melton presented several items, including risk assessment, IC assessment, President Robinson’s IC assurance statement, audit investigative follow-up, external audit updates, standards update, and an ERM update.

Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee

Trustee Reed, Committee Chair

The Budget Finance and Facilities Committee meeting met on May 29, 2024 and heard an update regarding the state of the campus following the tornados. The Committee also recommended approval of Accounts Receivables write-offs; surplus property write-offs; the 2024-2025 Preliminary Operating Budget, the 2025-2026 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan; amendment of Regulation 6.005; procurement of commodities & contractual services; contract authority for the south chiller plant – construction manager, Dining Hub expansion – construction

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manager, Foote-Hilyer sprinkler – construction manager, EAB Global, Inc.; and contract amendments for iHeart Media and Upscale Events by Mosaic, Inc.

Direct Support Organizations/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

Trustee Deveron Gibbons, Committee Chair

Trustee Gibbons reported that the Direct Support Organizations Committee would delay action on the FY 2024-225 Foundation Operating Budget and the terms of renewed Foundation Board members. Dr. Robinson and Provost Watson provided the committee with an update on the status of the campus following the recent tornadoes that hit the campus. They stated that campus cleanup efforts were underway, and that the campus was closed during the week of May 13-17, 2024.

Governance Committee

Trustee Kenny Stone, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Trustee Kenny Stone heard an update regarding the 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request (LBR). Following a lengthy discussion, the matter failed to receive the Committee’s approval. It was resolved that the LBR would be updated to increase the funding requests to address critical issues. The LBR would be placed on the full Board of Trustees May 29, 2024, meeting agenda.

Strategic Planning/Performance Measures Committee

Trustee Kristin Harper, Committee Chair

Chair Harper shared that the Committee heard an update on the Boldly Striking Strategic Plan. She stated that she introduced the idea of building upon the DSO's KPIs to align with the University’s Strategic Plan. Interim Vice President Roddrick Jones plans to work with the DSO's in developing strategic plans and KPI’s for next fiscal year. COO-interim Vice President for Advancement Dr. Donald Palm and VP Jones will provide an update on how alignment between DSO activities and the University’s Strategic Plan will take place and how progress will be measured.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Harper read the Consent Agenda:

- A. Board of Trustees Minutes (BT)
 - BT1 March 7, 2024
 - BT2 April 17, 2024

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B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)

- ASA1 Request for Leave of Absence - Elise SimmonsASA2
Regulation 4.008 – Religious Holidays
- ASA3 General Education Review Annual Report (New
- ASA4 Credit Hour Reduction
 - Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering
 - Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
- ASA5 New Degree Recommendations
 - Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering
 - Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Engineering
- ASA6 Faculty Tenure (*note: added to agenda below*)

C. Audit and Compliance Committee (AACC)

- AACC1 FY 2024-2025 Division of Audit Work Plan

D. Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee

- BFF1 Accounts Receivables Write-offs

- BFF2 Surplus Property Write-offs

- BFF3 2024-2025 Preliminary Operating Budget
- BFF4 2025-2026 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan
- BFF5 Amendment to Regulation 6.005, Procurement of Commodities &
Contractual Services
- BFF6 Contract Authority
 - South Chiller Plant – Construction Manager (CM)
 - Dining Hub Expansion – Construction Manager (CM)
 - Foote-Hilyer Sprinkler – Construction Manager (CM)
 - EAB Global, Inc.
- BFF7 Contract Amendments
 - iHeart Media
 - Upscale Events by Mosaic, Inc.

Chair Harper asked for additions to the Consent Agenda and Trustee Washington added Faculty Tenure, which was inadvertently left off. Trustee Gibbons moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawson and was approved with a unanimous vote.

Next, the Board held two closed sessions for: collective bargaining and for cyber security. Deputy General Counsel Iris Elijah and VP Joseph Maleszewski provided instructions, respectively.

The Board then moved into its closed sessions.

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The Board moved into open session. Trustee Reed moved that the Board of Trustees authorize the President to enter into an agreement with Workday, not to exceed \$24M over 10 years, pending review and approval of the General Counsel. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gibbons and carried unanimously.

Trustee Gibbons moved that the Board ratify the FAMU Board of Trustees-PBA tentative agreements of Article 6 and 24, that collectively represent the 2023-2024 reopener negotiations between the FAMU Board of Trustees and the PBA. Trustee Lawson seconded the motion and it carried with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

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