

Special Committee on Athletics Minutes

Chair Kelvin Lawson

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. Ms. Karai Lockley – Senior Associate Athletic Director of Business and Finance/Senior Woman Administrator called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Ann Marie Cavazos, Trustee Thomas Dortch Trustee David Lawrence Trustee Xavier McClinton and Chair/Trustee Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson opened with a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2020 meeting. Trustee Dortch moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried.

The next item on the Special Committee was for VP/AD Kortne Gosha's to begin his presentation on this year's academic accomplishments of our student-athletes, the current/next fiscal year budget as well as conference realignment.

Action item number one involved the approval of multi-year contracts for both men and women's basketball coaches. A vote for approval will be made once legal has finalized contract details.

As the current fiscal year was presented – VP/AD Kortne Gosha expressed that Florida A&M's Athletic Department will submit a balance budget. As the department looks forward to the next fiscal year – due to the Covid-19 pandemic – there are several models that have been heavily reviewed and taken into consideration. As the landscape of athletics changes – the way athletics operates will change holistically.

VP/AD Kortne Gosha methodically walked the Board of Trustees through the most recent feasibility study that suggest relocating to another athletic conference. This involved a more in depth look at the pros and cons for staying in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and joining the Southwestern Athletic Conference. One of the main takeaways from the study and comparison of the two conferences was the revenue distributions. Staying in the MEAC conference would be limited due to extreme travel costs and membership losses. Upon joining the SWAC – travel costs reduce significantly by approximately \$400,000. On average travel times to the SWAC member institutions are 5 hours away (one-way) in comparison to the MEAC at 10 hours – this will also allow the band to travel more frequently to competitions.

The revenue structure in the MEAC and the SWAC were compared equally to show projections in both conferences. Florida A&M Athletics will be able to reduce the overall departmental debt and reduce institutional support long-term in the event the decision was made to join the SWAC. In conclusion – the determination was made by VP/AD Kortne Gosha that it would be financially advantageous for Florida A&M to join the SWAC conference – effective Fall 2021.

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

Following VP/AD Kortne Gosha's statement to highly suggest the move to the SWAC – the Athletics' presentation came to a close.

Chair Lawson gave a high-level overview of the two action items that were presented by Athletics. Chair Lawson further explained the positive impact of the financial model in the SWAC compared to the MEAC. Following these explanations – Chair Lawson opened the floor up to questions for VP/AD Kortne Gosha.

After considerable deliberation between the Board, VP/AD Kortne Gosha and President Dr. Larry Robinson – Trustee Dortch offered an all-encompassing motion. This motion included all the conditions necessary for the university to review, update and finalize contract with legal counsel before signing any contract with the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Action item number two was to allow the Board of Trustees to vote on the move from Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference to the Southwestern Athletic Conference – which occurred on June 4, 2020.

All votes were unanimous and in approval to join the SWAC – effective Fall 2021.