

**Special Committee on Athletics Minutes**

**Chair Kelvin Lawson**

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

**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 Carrington Whingham, Trustee Otis Cliatt and Chair/Trustee Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson opened with a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2021 meeting. Trustee Cavazos moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence and the motion carried.

The next action item was the approval of the head coaches' agreements for football, men and women's basketball. Trustee Lawrence moved approval of the agreements and it was seconded by Trustee Whingham.

Trustee Moore suggested that all templates for contracts be as uniform as possible and recommended each page is initialed by each coach.

VP/AD Gosha had his executive staff present on the following discussion items:

- Budget Review – presented by Karai Lockley – Sr Associate Athletic Director of Business and Finance/SWA
- Compliance: Name, Image and Likeness – presented by Kentrell Kearney – Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and Diversity
- Academic/Graduation Overview – presented by Michelle Harper – Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Success & Competitive Excellence
- Facility Branding – presented by Michael Johnson Jr. – Associate Athletic Director | Administration & Operations
- External Dashboard – presented by Kevin Wilson – Associate Athletics Director, External Affairs
- Fundraising – presented by Keith McCluney – Deputy Director of Athletics

During Senior Associate Athletic Director Lockley's presentation, she reported that the Athletics department is projected to balance the 2020-2021 budget with a small surplus.

In continuance with the budget overview – VP/AD Gosha has requested a budget of approximately \$9.4M that will be viewed and approved by the board in the August Board meeting.

Associate Athletic Director Kearney followed up with presenting on the name, image and likeness bill that was signed by Governor DeSantis and will take effect July 1. This bill will give student-athletes the ability to monetize

their own likeness but requires the University to monitor activities and continued education for student-athletes on financial literacy and life skills.

Trustee DuBose mentioned his concerns about legal representation for student-athletes and how that will affect the University's general counsel. The University General Counsel expressed in the event a student-athlete acquires counsel they will only be able to negotiate outside contracts and endorsements but nothing related to University business (i.e. scholarships).

VP/AD Gosha stated there will be parameters and rules of engagement in regards to student-athlete contracts.

It was agreed upon between The Board and the Athletics department to have a preliminary framework to present at the next Board meeting for review and discussion.

Associate Athletic Director Harper provided the academic landscape of Athletics for this academic year. Athletics departmental cumulative GPA is 3.12 at the end of the Spring semester. This is the fourth consecutive semester Athletics has had a 3.0 or higher. All of the women's teams had a 3.0 or higher and the highest male team was men's golf at 3.15.

Associate Athletic Director Johnson discussed facility upgrades and branding throughout the Athletics Department. He touched on the Bragg Memorial Stadium progress. The contractors are currently in phase one and are 40% complete. The lighting system, video board and west side of the stadium will be part of phase 2 which is set for summer 2022. The partnership with Nike and LeBron has yielded significant social media and community exposure. As a byproduct – royalties will raise 15% with Collegiate Licensing Company.

Associate Athletic Director Wilson provided all the fundraising initiatives and how much has been raised since January 2020. The Athletics Department has raised approximately \$675,000 since the inception of the Rattler Athletic Fund (RAF). The department will be engaging donors on a tour to several cities around the country coining it the Rattler Athletic Fund Strike Tour.

Deputy McCluney emphasized how the RAF has provided Athletics with the resources they need to give the student-athletes a first-class intercollegiate athletic experience. The 'All In' campaign allowed for a full rehaul of Galimore Powell fieldhouse which has not been touched in over 30 years. The department's staff giving went from 47% to 82% and growing.

VP/AD Gosha highlighted the golf team that won the MEAC Championship for the first time in program history this semester and Jaylyn Scott from the men's track team was selected to participate in NCAA Track & Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon – this is our first appearance since 2018. Jaylyn is the current school record holder 400-meter hurdles with two more years left in his collegiate career.

In closing – with the social media exposure, the accomplishments in the classroom and on the field, court and alley – Athletics is making all the strides to take Florida A&M to places they have never been before.