

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 9, 2014  
8:30 A.M.**

Trustees present: Torey Alston, Solomon Badger, Glen Gilzean, Spurgeon McWilliams, Rufus Montgomery, Kimberly Moore, Narayan Persaud, Belinda Shannon, Anthony Siders, Marjorie Turnbull, Cleve Warren, and Karl White.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Dr. Solomon Badger, Chairman*

Dr. Badger called the meeting to order and asked Attorney Barge-Miles to call the roll. A quorum was established.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

*Chairman Badger*

Trustee Badger asked the Board to consider approval of the minutes, as posted on the website. He asked if there were any corrections. There were none. Trustee Warren moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moore and the motion carried.

**III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, Interim President*

Dr. Robinson introduced Ms. Joyce Ingram, the new Human Resources Director and Ms. Fay Watkins, the new Dean of the University's Libraries.

- He informed the Board that on December 10<sup>th</sup> the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges lifted the 12-month probation status placed upon Florida A&M University in December 2012. He stated that no further reports were required from the university and that FAMU should receive a letter from SACS-COC later that month.
  - He also stated that the show cause hearing before the American Bar Association had been canceled in response to additional information that had been submitted by the College of Law.
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  - FAMU is the Tom Joyner Foundation "School of the Month" for January 2014. During the fundraising campaign, 100 percent of funds raised by the foundation on behalf of FAMU will be sent directly to the university.

- Dr. Robinson shared that, on behalf of the University, he accepted a “Black Oscar” at the 2013 Troféu Raça Negra (Black Race Awards) in São Paulo, Brazil. The award was presented to FAMU in recognition of its continuous work in promoting diversity and inclusion through higher education.
- FAMU was also recognized by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) as the first recipient of the Innovation Award and the Exemplary Alumni Award during their inaugural 1890 Awards.
- FAMU received the Exemplary Alumni Award, which honors the university that has the single largest donation (monetary or in-kind) to the university from an alumnus of the university during the 2012-2013 academic year.
- Two FAMU College of Law students successfully defended FAMU's title by winning the Second Annual Puerto Rican Bar Association Moot Court Competition on Oct. 26 in Miami, Fla.
- FAMU has been listed as an "Online Colleges in Florida That Win on Affordability" by the website AffordableCollegesOnline.org (AC Online). FAMU was ranked No. 16 on the list of 53 ranked institutions (FSU is 23; BCU is 32).
- Forty-five FAMU students traveled to Birmingham, Alabama with the Student National Alumni Association and the Office of Student Activities, to participate in service projects titled the Holiday Helping Hands Service Trip. The four-day trip included delivering early Christmas gifts, reading books to school children and spending time helping a food bank prepare boxes for the less fortunate.
- The Office of Academic Affairs established the FAMU Consortium of Outreach Programs (FAMU CORP), which focuses on college readiness and STEM interest in K-12 students.
- A delegation of FAMU faculty, scientists and engineers will travel to the United Arab Emirates to share their expertise during the World Future Energy Summit January 17-22<sup>nd</sup>. The group will make visits to Abu Dhabi University and Skyline University.
- FAMU and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will provide for the development of an articulation agreement to bridge students into

the community psychology master's program and the counseling psychology doctorate program.

- On January 15, FAMU will host the Annual MLK Jr. Convocation at 10 am in Gaither Gymnasium. Congressman Kendrick P. Meek will serve as the speaker for the occasion. Dr. Joseph Webster will be the speaker for the Annual Black History Convocation.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### **Academic Affairs**

*Trustee Marjorie Turnbull*

Trustee Turnbull reported that Provost Wright recommended *Tenure Upon Appointment* for Dr. Victor Ibeanusi, Dr. Jenny Jones, and Dr. Sylvester Young. Their CV's were reviewed by the respective college/school committee, the respective deans, the University Tenure and Promotion Committee, the Provost, and the President for evidence of highly competent teaching and research and other scholarly activities, services, and contributions to the University and to society.

**Trustee Turnbull moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Tenure Upon Appointment for Victor Ibeanusi, Jenny Jones, and Sylvester Young. It was seconded by Trustee Siders and the motion carried.**

Next, Trustee Turnbull indicated that Dr. Gita Pitter presented the University's Accountability Report, which identifies key achievements and narratives related to Board of Governors goals on teaching and learning; scholarship, research and innovation and community and business engagement.

Dr. Pitter discussed the first year retention rate, which increased from 79% in 2010-2011 to 82% in 2012-2013 and that FAMU's graduates earn an average of \$41,000 in starting salaries.

**Trustee Turnbull moved that the Board of Trustees approve the university's 2012-2013 Accountability Report, which will be submitted to the BOG for consideration at the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Siders and the motion carried.**

Trustee Turnbull then gave an update on the request to increase tuition for the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She informed the Board that Dean Michael Thompson stressed the importance of enhancing

faculty salaries as a means of retaining qualified faculty members that the University has begun to lose due to non-competitive salaries offered at FAMU. This became a critical issue, when it was noted by as an issue by the accrediting agency. This item will be presented during the March BOT meeting or earlier in a special call meeting and this will allow Dr. Thompson time to respond to additional questions that were posed during the committee meeting. A copy of the additional questions was distributed to all of the Trustees.

Finally, a copy of the Academic Affairs Update on Specialized Accreditation was distributed for informational purposes. In addition, the action rendered by the *Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education* in Occupational Therapy program was received by the University on January 7, 2014, and was distributed on the same day to the BOT.

### **Budget and Finance**

*Trustee Rufus Montgomery*

Chair Badger recognized Trustee Montgomery to present an update on the Budget and Finance Committee. Trustee Montgomery reported that the committee recommended the following amendments:

1. \$2,233,992 million in General Revenue funds for:
  - a. Health care subsidy
  - b. Salary increases for E&G employees
  - c. Salary increases for graduate assistants; and
  - d. Performance-based funding.
2. An additional \$750,000 of unexpended fiscal year 2012-13 to be added to the Carry Forward Activity and Service Fee Fund, as statutorily authorized;
3. A reduction of \$154,000 to the Tuition Differential Fund to reflect revised available funds;
4. An addition of \$365,000 to the Auxiliary Trust Fund to accommodate changes resulting from the change in dining services providers; and
5. An addition of \$255,000 to the Auxiliary Replacement and Repair fund to repair and replace dining services equipment that is in poor condition.

**Trustee Montgomery moved that the Board of Trustees approve the amendments to fiscal year 2013-14 Operating Budget as presented. It was seconded by Trustee Turnbull and the motion carried.**

Trustee Montgomery reported that the Committee heard an update regarding the acquisition cost for the Centennial building.

**Trustee Montgomery moved that the Board of Trustees approve an amendment to add \$2.8 million to the budget for the Auxiliary Trust Fund for the purpose acquiring the Centennial Building, subject to the approval of the acquisition by this Board. It was seconded and the motion carried.**

*Note: Trustee Moore abstained from the vote and filed the appropriate form.*

Trustee Montgomery indicated that the usage of and general overview of auxiliary funds will be placed on the agenda for the Budget and Finance workshop in May.

Trustee Montgomery reported that the 800-Bed facility is on budget and on schedule with a projected completion date of May 2014. He stated that the Committee also received a report that the University is in sound financial health with adequate reserves.

The Committee next heard a brief report from the Director of Government Relations. Finally, the Committee heard information on collaborative federal contracts that FAMU, as the lead contractor, had signed with Jackson State University and with the University of Texas at Brownville.

### **Operating Procedures Committee**

*Trustee Torey Alston*

Trustee Alston reported that the Operating Procedures Committee met and approved a series of amendments, including a change to the public comments provisions. Many of the changes were technical/clean-up in nature.

**Trustee Alston moved that the Board approve the proposed changes to the Operating Procedures. It was seconded by Trustee McWilliams and the motion carried.**

Trustee Alston then suggested that the public and several groups needed a response from the Board regarding the status of Dr. Robinson and a clarification of a joint decision that was made about being the permanent president. Trustee Alston also recommended that the public be allowed to comment prior to naming the permanent president.

## **V. Statement by the Chair Re: Dr. Larry Robinson**

*Chair Solomon Badger*

“There has been a lot of conversation around whether or not Dr. Larry Robinson would be considered as a candidate for the presidency of Florida A&M University. This is Dr. Robinson’s second stint as interim president of the university and while considering his appointment for a second term during the August 15, 2012 meeting, the board discussed whether an interim president would be eligible to apply for the full time position. After an hour of careful consideration, we asked Dr. Robinson to refrain from applying for the position in order to attract a wide pool of candidates and he agreed. As you can imagine it is incredibly difficult to recruit a talented group of applicants when they feel they are competing against an incumbent.

And no one would be more challenging to compete against than a leader as qualified as Dr. Larry Robinson. He hit the ground running at one of the most difficult times this university has ever faced. Eighteen months ago, this university was emerged in challenges that garnered national attention. Yet, Dr. Robinson was undaunted by the task of helping FAMU implement new policies and make important hires to strategically turn the tide and bring about stability for the university. Dr. Robinson is a man of integrity, he is well respected among his peers, he is passionate about the university and he has worked tirelessly to be a beacon of stability during this transition period. I have no doubt in my mind that he was called for such a time as this!

Therefore it is indeed bittersweet that we have reached the hour where the interim president must pass the reins on to the next leader. We as a board salute Dr. Robinson for standing in the gap for Florida A&M University and helping this great institution return to level ground. I, personally, cannot thank him enough for what he has done for our students, faculty, alumni and the university as a whole.”

## **VI. Public Comments**

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Dr. Clyde Ashley
- Mr. Tommy Mitchell
- Dr. Elizabeth Davenport
- Dr. Walter Smith
- Mrs. Carolyn Collins
- Lt. Col. Gregory Clark
- Ms. Tonnelle Graham

- Mr. Charles Garner
- Mr. Michael Davis
- Dr. Bill Tucker
- Mrs. Faye Greene Daniels

**VII. Presidential Search**  
*Trustee Karl White*

Trustee White reported that the Presidential Search Committee was appointed by Trustee Badger in August 2012. The search was suspended in March 2013 for the University to address its probationary status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In December 2013, SACS removed the probationary status and the search was thereafter reinstated. On January 3 2014, the Search Committee reviewed applications and narrowed the pool to six individuals that were invited to interview with the Committee in Orlando, Florida. Four candidates interviewed with the Committee. At the conclusion of the interviews, two finalists were selected for interviews by the full Board of Trustees. Those candidates were Dr. Elmira Mangum, Vice President for Budget and Planning at Cornell University and Dr. John Ellis Price, former founding President of the University of North Texas, Dallas.

The candidates interviewed with the Board, met with community leaders, students, faculty and staff through forums and receptions.

**Trustee White moved that the Board of Trustees appoint Dr. Elmira Mangum, Ph.D. as president of Florida A&M University, subject to satisfactory negotiations of an employment contract. It was seconded by Trustee Siders.**

The roll-call vote yielded the following results:

Trustee Alston	Yes
Trustee Badger	Yes
Trustee Gilzean	No
Trustee Lawson	Absent
Trustee McWilliams	No
Trustee Montgomery	Yes
Trustee Moore	Yes
Trustee Persaud	Yes
Trustee Shannon	Yes
Trustee Siders	Yes
Trustee Turnbull	Yes
Trustee Warren	Yes
Trustee White	Yes

The motion passed 10 yes' and 2 no's. The motion carried.

Chairman Badger recognized Dr. Robinson for brief comments. Dr. Robinson thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve Florida A&M University as its interim president. He encouraged all to continue to work together to make sure that FAMU continues to be the greatest institution in America. He also stated that he would do everything that he could to make the transition smooth and that he fully supports this new administration.

With there being no additional business for the Board, the meeting adjourned.