

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Linda Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Cavazos, Dortch, Harper, Lawrence, Lawson, McClinton, Moore, Perry, Reed, Stone, Washington and Woody.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no requests for public comments.

CLOSED SESSION:

Next, the Board held a closed session regarding cyber security. Participants included the Board of Trustees, President Robinson, Provost Edington, VP Maleszewski, VP Wallace, VP Robertson, Audit Director Deidre Melton, CIO Ron Henry, Senior Auditor Ruoxu Li, ITS consultant Stoner, and the court reporter – Nancy Metzke.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Larry Robinson, President

Chair Lawson recognized President Robinson for his report. President Robinson thanked all for their hard work and commented that in the midst of a pandemic, the University continues to rise.

He reported that the BOG has two new metrics: FCS-AA Transfer Two-Year Graduation Rate (full-time students only) and FTIC Pell-Grant Six-Year Graduation Rate (full-time and part-time students). He said that the changes are immediate and will be reflected in the upcoming accountability plan.

President Robinson shared that the University has focused on student success. He pointed out that the University has improved the second year retention rate from 77% in the fall of 2018 to 86% for the fall of 2019. There has also been a 3% increase in the total number of degrees awarded over the 2018-2019 academic year. The University has seen an increase in bachelor degrees, professional doctoral degrees. Research doctoral degrees increased by 30%. There was a decline in the percentage of master's degrees awarded during that time. President Robinson commended Academic Affairs and Student Affairs for working diligently to move these metrics in the right direction.

The University welcomed 2000 new student in fall 2020 with an average GPA of 3.59, a .13 increase compared to fall 2019.

Procedural Motion

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to advance the action items on the agenda. Trustee Dortch offered the motion to allow action items on the agenda to be heard before the information items. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried. The Board proceeded with the re-ordered agenda.

PRESIDENT'S CONTRACT EXTENSION:

Chair Lawson stated that the University has benefited from President Robinson's strong leadership over the past three years. He then stated that the Board needed to consider the extension of President Robinson's employment which was set to expire December 31, 2020. Attorney David Self reviewed the contract addendum with the Board and explained that the Board of Governors only allows one-year contract extensions for University presidents. Therefore, the addendum to the contract would change the expiration date to December 31, 2021. Trustee Perry moved approval of the contract extension. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Trustee Lawrence stated that President Robinson and his team have done marvelous work and he is proud to be part of the team. President Robinson thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to serve, as it is a labor of love for him.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic and Student Affairs

Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair

Trustee Washington reported that the Committee met and recommended approval of the request for leave without pay for Nandi Riley. The Committee also recommended approval of the amendments to Student Affairs Regulations 2.012, 2.013, and 2.028. The Committee also heard updates on Division of Student Affairs, the FAMU Development Research School and the University's strategic plan.

Audit and Compliance

Trustee Craig Reed, Chair

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Reed for the Audit and Compliance Committee report. He shared that the Committee recommended approval of the Audit Work Plan for January - June 2021 and the University policy on fraud. The Committee also heard updates from the Office of Compliance and Ethics and Division of Audit.

Budget, Finance and Facilities

Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair

Trustee Moore informed that Board that the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee recommended approval of the Honeywell Performance Contract, the management and maintenance contract for the College of Law, Brooksville International Goat Facility, Gibbs Hall repairs, repairs to Bragg Memorial Stadium, the revised Athletics re-payment plan, and additional paid days off for eligible University employees.

The Committee also heard updates regarding the financial status of the University, COVID-19 expenditures, University projects, supplier diversity status, housing and organizational assessment. After the supplier diversity status report was presented, Trustee Dortch offered his expertise to assist with developing the University' Diversity and Inclusion program.

Direct Support Organizations

Trustee Thomas Dortch

Trustee Dortch reported that the Committee recommended approval of a new member of the FAMU Foundation. The Committee also heard an update from University Advancement, reporting that more than \$5.1M was raised as of November 27, 2020. Also, on "Giving Tuesday", December 1, 2020, \$47,000 was raised. Trustee Dortch donated \$3,000 and encouraged other trustees to match his gift.

He shared that over six hundred registrants participated in a virtual symposium featuring Microsoft chair and FAMU alum John Thompson. This event was sponsored by the FAMU Industry Cluster and drew over 600 registrants and participants.

The Committee also heard updates from the FAMU Foundation, FAMU National Alumni Association, and the FAMU Rattler Boosters.

Special Committee on Athletics

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson shared that the Special Committee on Athletics recommended approval of the multi-media rights contract. He stated that AD Gosha updated the committee on fundraising initiatives, Bragg Memorial Stadium renovations, the impact of COVID-19 on athletics and the Athletics Strategic Plan. Chair Lawson indicated that the current athletics licensing agreement will also be expiring in the spring, but is expected to be recommended for renewal.

The Committee also received an update regarding the revised debt repayment plan.

Special Committee on the College of Law

Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair

Trustee Perry shared that Dean Keller provided an update on the College of Law's program improvement plan. He said that the College has made several admissions changes that are considered key indicators and should impact student success:

- The College increased the median LSAT score from 146 to 147.
- The undergrad GPA required for admission was increased from 3.1 to 3.30.
- The size of the first-year class was reduced from 209 last year to 112 this year.

Dean Keller introduced the external consultant Barry Currier to the Committee. In his role, he will examine career planning and professional development, student services, the budget and academics. The committee asked Dean Keller to prepare a timeline regarding Mr. Currier's work.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chair Lawson reviewed the Consent Agenda. Trustee Moore moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried, without opposition.

The consent agenda included the following items:

Board of Trustees (BT)

- BT1 September 3, 2020
- BT2 September 24, 2020

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)

- ASA1 Leave Without Pay – Nandi Riley
- ASA2 Amendment to Regulation 2.012, Student Code of Conduct
- ASA3 Amendment to Regulation 2.013, Due Process, Other Rights and Responsibilities
- ASA4 Amendment of Regulation 2.028, Anti-Hazing

Audit and Compliance Committee (ACC)

- ACC1 Fraud Policy
- ACC2 Audit Work Plan

Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)

- BFF1 Honeywell Performance Contract
- BFF2 Management and Maintenance Contract for the College of Law
- BFF3 Brooksville International Goat Facility
- BFF4 Gibbs Hall Essential Structural Repairs

- BFF5 Bragg Memorial Stadium Phases I and II
- BFF6 Revised Athletics Re-payment Plan
- BFF7 Additional Paid Days Off for Eligible University Employees

Direct Support Organizations Committee (DSO)

- DSO1 Faculty Representative on the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors

Special Committee on Athletics (SCA)

- SCA1 Apparel Contract
- SCA2 Multi-Media Rights Contract

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Next, Rica Calhoun shared that the university has begun scaling up the core elements of the Reopening Plan to accommodate an anticipated increase in campus density in the spring semester. The spring semester will begin virtually, giving the University a two-week window to pursue expanded COVID-19 testing for residential students and other identified high contact groups. Classroom enhancements are underway and the University is approaching the spring semester with the continual focus on safety and adaptability.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REPORT:

Chair Lawson recognized Joyce Ingram, Director of Human Resources to update the Board on the University Diversity and Inclusion Plan. Mrs. Ingram stated that the diversity and inclusion initiative has been strategically aligned with the strategic plan and fully integrated into the university. The University established a Diversity and Inclusion Council. The Council focuses its work in seven key areas: faculty, student and staff engagement; organizational development and training; recruitment development and retention; communication; community and global engagement; policy and program development; and measurement and reporting.

To date, a culture survey and internal assessment were conducted, the results were shared with the University’s leadership and campus community and strategies are being developed to address culture opportunities/gaps. The next step is to align the University’s plan with the Board of Governors expectations.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) REPORT:

Trustee/Student Government Association (SGA) president Xavier McClinton updated the Board on the SGA. He stated that the SGA worked hard to encourage students to vote and be civically engaged. They worked with the FAMU chapter of the NAACP to register students to vote. Trustee McClinton shared that he is the vice chair of the Florida Student Association and spearheads the legislative agenda/priorities for that organization.

He shared that the SGA is renovating space for student organizations and covered the costs for renovations in campus recreation. The SGA is creating an Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which is up for final approval from the Student Senate. The students are preparing to continue its support of Relay for Life in the spring and have specifically emphasizing breast cancer and prostate cancer.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT:

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Cavazos for the Faculty Senate report. Trustee Cavazos started her report by crediting the University's faculty with student success. She then recognized Dr. Tiffany Packer - Teacher of the Year and Mr. Jorge Olaves-Hernandez - Advanced Teacher of the Year.

Trustee Cavazos shared that Engineering Professors Sungmoon Jung and Mohammedreza Seyedi acquired \$100,000 from the Federal Transit Administration for a multi-disciplinary study that will determine the safety of humans sharing the road with buses that operate electronically and independently. Dr. Shoda Bernadin will participate in a grant from the Department of Energy that will help fill the need for more diversity in the STEM workforce. Dr. Jennifer Taylor was named advisor for the National Organic Coalition and Dr. Satyanarayan Dev received two patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Trustee Cavazos closed by saying that faculty and staff have demonstrated an unwavering commitment and dedication to the University's students. They quickly adapted to changing circumstances to effectively meet the needs of the students in this remote learning and working environment.

President Robinson's Video Update:

The Board concluded its meeting by viewing a video highlighting the University's accomplishments over the past few months.

ADJOURNMENT:

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