

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees**



**MEETING MINUTES  
January 24, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*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: Carter, Dortch, Grable, Jackson, Lawrence, Lawson, Mills, Perry, Washington, and Woody. Trustee Reed did not attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee Report**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore*

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Moore to present the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee report. Trustee Moore reported that the committee had three action items: the revised carry-forward budget, the parking services budget amendment; and the Centennial Building access license. The Brooksville Solar Farm Initiative was presented as an information item.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Lawson asked if there were any additions to the consent agenda or if anything needed to be removed from the agenda. He then reviewed items on the agenda. Trustee David Jackson, III moved approval of the consent agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Mills and the motion carried. The consent agenda included the following items:

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)**

- BFF1 Carryforward Spending Plan
- BFF2 Parking Services Budget Amendment
- BFF3 Centennial Building Access License

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
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The interim Vice President for Research, Dr. Charles Weatherford presented an update regarding the industrial hemp project proposals. He indicated that the University would seek the Board's approval to negotiate with the following entities that were deemed qualified respondents:

Eat Your Veggies, LLC	Liberty Health Sciences
Future Farm Technologies	RBC-USA-United (RUU)
Green Earth Cannaceuticals, Inc.	Sunshine Hemp, Inc.
Stem IH/Stiff Holding Company	

He stated that in evaluating the proposals, the evaluation team would focus on:

1. Research
2. Location
3. Finances
4. Safety and Security
5. Oversight
6. Licenses
7. Participation as a certified woman, veteran, and minority small owned business (History of collaboration with underserved populations).

VP Weatherford indicated that the committee asked the respondents several questions:

1. How would your company assess the invasiveness of various species of industrial hemp, the impact that industrial hemp has on the environment, and methods of sustainable cultivation.
2. What specific research projects would you be interested in conducting during the pilot project phase and how would it be accomplished?
3. How many sites would be used to assess the above research initiatives, and would your company be using FAMU sites in Brooksville and/or Quincy?
4. Please provide documentation which confirms the ability to support full funding of the project; that is audited financial statements.
5. Will your company be able to support multiple sites?
6. Will you be able to support monthly visits from the FAMU team, which will consist of agronomist; soil scientist; soil hydrologist; entomologist; agricultural systems engineer; and compliance officer?
7. What types of internships or research opportunities could your company provide for the FAMU students and faculty and staff that might be interested in working with you?
8. What other financial or relationship incentives would your company provide to FAMU?
9. Please describe your security plan for the containment and security of the industrial hemp.
10. What internal oversight will you provide?
11. Are you able to obtain the appropriate licenses for cultivation of industrial hemp species?
12. Is your company certified as a minority owned, woman owned, small/disadvantaged business, or veteran owned enterprise as determined by the Office of Supplier Diversity or an equivalent agency?
13. What is your history of collaboration with underserved populations in the industrial hemp or related industries?

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Dr. Weatherford indicated that the process includes the following next steps.

- Presentations to the committee on campus by the qualified respondents.
- Negotiation between FAMU and Respondents;
- Evaluation team recommends Respondent(s) for contractual agreement
- BOT approval of final pilot project(s) and partner(s)
- Begin FDAC permit process

Trustee Moore moved approval of the motion to approve the University to negotiate with qualified respondents. It was seconded by Trustee Woody and the motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Brooksville Solar Farm**

Next, Dr. Fred Gainous, former President and current Executive Director of the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station the Board gave a presentation regarding a proposal for a solar farm on the University's Brooksville property.

Dr. Gainous indicated that a committee was established to make recommendations regarding the merits of establishing a solar farm on the Brooksville property. The companies had to show value to students, teaching and learning, and the University. The committee reviewed proposals, conducted interviews and ultimately recommended Duke Energy, as the provided. Duke indicated that it wanted to be a corporate partner to the University and it would provide its data for all of its solar farms to the University for FAMU to establish a center for renewable energy.

Attorney David Self explained that the proposed contract has three phases:

1. Due diligence phase – Duke would pay \$40 per acre while determining the value of the property. (Maximum two years)
2. Construction period – Duke would pay \$400 per usable acre per year. This could amount to \$240,000 or \$320,000 per year. (Maximum two years)
3. Operational period – Duke would pay \$850 per acre per year or \$510,000-\$680,000 per year, with an annual escalation in rent of two percent to 2.5 percent each year.  
Duke has also requested two options to renew for five years.

Dr. Gainous confirmed that the committee will do its due diligence to ensure that the University is getting a fair deal and will look at the deals other universities have. Trustee Perry suggested that the university should look at getting a percentage of Duke's gross revenues, as part of the negotiations. Trustee Carter, a former chair of the Public Service Commission (PSC), stated that any transaction by Duke would have to be approved by the PSC, regarding how it would impact the current rate payers.

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Trustee Moore asked that staff compile a list of questions and answers that they receive and provide that information to the full Board in March.

## **Key Open Leadership Positions**

President Robinson was recognized to provide an update on the status of key open leadership positions.

Vice President for Audit – The committee will start interviews the week of February 4, 2019 and President Robinson hopes to make an offer by the end of February.

Vice President for Legal Affairs – The committee is reviewing the applications and will provide the finalist to President Robinson by mid-February. An offer should be made by the end of February or early March.

Vice President for Research – Provost Edington has formed the search committee and expect the process to be completed by the end of the spring semester.

Dean for the College of Education – The new dean will start on July 1, 2019.

Dean for the College of Law – Provost Edington has hired a search firm and has appointed a search committee.

Superintendent of FAMU Developmental Research School – Two finalist are being scheduled for on-campus interviews and an offer should be made by the end of February or early March.

## **CASS Building and HBCU Capital Financing**

VP Wanda Ford indicated that the Center for Access and Student Success building (CASS) is on the Board of Governors' PECO list and is being recommended for five million dollars in funding.

Regarding the HBCU capital financing, the University is working with the BOG, the Division of Bond Finance, Rice Capital and the U.S. Department of Education to establish a closing date for the financing. The tentative closing date is February 15, 2019.

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**Performance Funding**

President Robinson provided an update on performance funding.

1. The bottom-three component is eliminated.
2. A minimum score of 51 points is required to receive the institutional investment.
3. The three universities with the highest scores will receive 100 percent of the allocation of the state investment.
4. Universities that increased their scores over the last year will receive 100 percent of their allocations of the state investment.
5. If the university's score decreases or stays the same for two consecutive years, the university may receive 100 percent of their allocation of the state investment, after presenting or completing a student success plan.
6. In 2021/2022 the following will be effective:
  - a. A university that scores below 70 points could receive up to 50 percent of the state investment, after presenting or completing a student success plan.
  - b. If the University scores above the 70 percent threshold, it would receive 100 percent of the allocation.

The new BOT Choice Metric, Metric 10 is: The number of bachelor's degrees awarded to transfers with AA degrees from the Florida College System. This will be effective for the 2019/2020 allocation year.

Lastly, President Robinson shared that the 2019 institutional dashboard can be accessed on the President's website, under the "Goals" link.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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