

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



MEETING MINUTES

June 30, 2017

Chair Kelvin Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Justin Bruno, Matthew Carter, Thomas Dortch, Bettye Grable, David Lawrence, Kelvin Lawson, Gary McCoy, Harold Mills, Kimberly Moore, Belvin Perry, Craig Reed, Nicole Washington, and Robert Woody.

President Robinson was recognized to present the 2018-2019 Legislative Budget Request (LBR), which required approval the Board of Trustees, prior to its submission to the Board of Governors by July 10, 2017. President Robinson provided highlights regarding the three components of the request:

1. The first LBR included a request for recurring funds of \$9,810,000 and \$5,500,000 in non-recurring funds. The requested funds would allow FAMU to significantly increase student success outcomes, improve key performance indicators, and expand the University's capacity to meet Florida's workforce needs. The funds would also allow the University to:

- Enhance student support services with intrusive advisors and peer coaches
- Employ an early alert system
- Implement program enhancements(improve technology)
- Increase faculty in strategic areas
- Expand online programs

Trustee Carter moved approval of the 2018/2019 LBR. It was seconded by Trustee Dortch and the motion carried. The Board then heard updates regarding the other two components of the LBR.

2. Ronald Henry, Associate Vice President for Information Technology provided an update on the request regarding technology. Mr. Henry indicated that the LBR included a non-recurring fund request of \$7,549,000 for ITS – General Operational Enhancements (Technology Focused Learning). The funds requested would assist with student and faculty technology needs throughout the university.

3. President Robinson explained that the final LBR seeks operational funds for the Brooksville property. The request is for recurring funds of \$100,000 and non-recurring funds of \$1,146,072. The requested funds are needed to enhance FAMU's capacity and ability to conduct essential research that would lead to new discoveries and the development of new economic crops and livestock that would empower the University's stakeholders to farm more efficiently.

Next, President Robinson provided an update on the medical marijuana legislation that passed during the 2017 Special Legislative Session. He indicated that the University will receive \$10 for

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



license issued to individuals that receive medical marijuana. The funds will be deposited in the Division of Research and will be used to educate minority communities in Florida about the advantages of medical marijuana and the hazards of the illegal use of marijuana. He stated that the University's team met and discussed how the University might move forward with this project. The team includes individuals from education, public health, agriculture, and research. The University will also be working closely with the Florida Department of Health. Trustee Woody suggested that the University should consider involving local and state law enforcement in the project.

President Robinson indicated that the University will also be involved in hemp research. The bill that passed during the special session indicated that FAMU would work with a private partner on the beneficial uses of hemp. The University would be able to grow hemp for research purposes. The potential sites are in Gadsden County and Brooksville. He shared that any potential partnerships would be brought to the Board for its consideration.

Next, Trustee Bruno inquired about the establishment of a special committee on the College of Pharmacy, due to recent challenges. Provost Wright shared that the grievance committee should have a resolution within the next few days. He stated that the interim dean has been working with faculty to address the licensure passage rate and to create an action plan, which will be presented to the Board at its next meeting. Chair Lawson suggested that Trustee Bruno spend some time with Provost Wright regarding this issue. He should also hold listening sessions with the students and at the retreat, the Board can get a broader look at what the plans are. From there the Board can determine if there is still a need for a special committee.

Trustee Bruno informed the Board that he did not sign the student budget and inquired about what happens in such a situation. Dr. William Hudson, Jr., VP for Student Affairs explained that the process for approval is dictated by the student government documents and that the student budget is currently in the University's Budget Office.

Chair Lawson noted that the University did a nice job on 2017/2018 Work Plan presentation at the BOG meeting. He also shared that the state is beginning to migrate from a six-year graduation rate to looking at a four-year graduation rate. He stated that the University needed to move that metric up and ended the meeting by stating that the University was up to the challenge.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.