

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY  
Board of Trustees  
ACTION ITEM

**Special Committee on the College of Law**

**Minutes**

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Agenda Item: III

**Subject:** Special Committee on the College of Law Meeting Minutes

**Proposed Board Action: Subject:** Approval of the Minutes

**Rationale:** Section 5.10 of the Board of Trustees Operating Procedures provides that detailed minutes should be kept for any Board or Committee meeting. Those minutes should include a record of votes cast and attendance.

**Recommendation:** Approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes for June 3, 2020.

**Attachments:** Yes, copies of the minutes are attached.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY  
Board of Trustees

**Special Committee on the College of Law  
Committee Minutes  
June 3, 2020**

The Special Committee on the College of Law met on June 3, 2020. The following trustees were present and established a quorum: Belvin Perry, Kristin Harper, David Lawrence, and Robert Woody.

Trustee Perry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2020 meeting. Trustee Woody moved approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Provost Edington introduced incoming dean Mrs. Deidre Keller. She addressed the committee and informed them that she would formally join the College of Law on July 1, 2020.

Provost Edington then updated the Committee on the licensure task force. He stated that the final report, which includes over 70 recommendations, would be finalized soon, as the task force is meeting the following week. Provost Edington stated that he plans to work with the dean to develop a program improvement plan, which will be presented to the Committee at the September Board of Trustees meeting. The preliminary recommendations include strategies regarding:

Admissions

- Increasing the minimum LSAT and GPA for admission
- Limit the size of the incoming cohort

Recruitment

- Develop a strategic recruitment and enrollment management plan to expand the College's recruitment footprint across the country to identify highly-credentialed students.
- Allocate additional resources to the College for scholarships to attract top students.

Retention

- Allocate additional funding to provide incentives for retaining high-performing students, such as offering retention scholarships for second-year students.
- Increase the use of predictive analytics to identify at-risk students and provide targeted academic support services to ensure effective acclimation to law school and bar study.

Curriculum

- Bar preparation activities should be ongoing and incorporated into the curriculum beginning with the first year.
- Enhance the function of the College's curriculum committee to provide more effective ongoing oversight of course content and pedagogy used by faculty in courses that are intended to prepare students for the bar.

Academic Support/Bar Prep

- Increase investments in staffing and other services for at-risk students.
- Incorporate more mandatory bar-prep courses into the curriculum. -Note: ABA now allows 4-credit courses to facilitate inclusion of bar-prep efforts into course curricula.
- Best practices, such as wrap-around services, should be evaluated and implemented as appropriate. -Provide personalized academic coaching to assist students in preparing for the bar (writing and critical analysis skills).
- Incorporate the expertise of doctrinal faculty into all areas of bar preparation.

The Committee then heard a presentation from Mike Sims, president of BarBri, a company that specializes in bar examination review and preparation. He shared that BarBri also offers programs and strategies to assist students in law school ultimately pass the bar examination. BarBri's review of the FAMU College of Law data indicated that the bar passage rate prediction factors include:

1. Undergraduate grade point average
2. LSAT score
3. Off-campus living expenses
4. Student-faculty ratio

Mr. Sims explained various strategies that BarBri uses to enhance bar preparation and stated that he expects that students will out-perform predictions. Strategies include determining the initial level of the students and introducing lawyering fundamentals in the first-year of law school. The second-year student would include remediation and advanced legal methods. During the third-year of law school student would prepare for the exam and have an extended bar review. After graduation, the graduates would take the post-grad BarBri bar review and pass of the bar examination. Mr. Sims indicated that he believes the students will out-perform predictions if BarBri is involved in the intervention. Several committee members echoed their support, if it will help students.

The Committee and the University agreed that the next step should include hiring a consultant to provide recommendations regarding moving forward. Incoming Dean Keller indicated that she had already begun searching for consultant candidates. Provost Edington stated that he would work through the University's established process to bring the consultant onboard.

As a final measure, the Committee thanked interim dean Nikki Boothe for her service, commitment, and leadership of the College of Law.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY  
**Board of Trustees**

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