

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



**MEETING MINUTES  
March 7, 2019**

**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: Carter (phone), Dortch, Grable, Jackson, Lawrence, Lawson, Mills, Moore, Perry, Reed, Washington (phone), and Woody.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Interim Vice President Rica Calhoun was recognized by Chair Lawson to provide instructions regarding the closed session for Cybersecurity Gap Analysis and the Cloud Security Governance Audit. She provided instructions and the Board held the closed session. No actions resulted from the session.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals presented public comments:

Alexis Jones – pharmacy student  
Zerika Armand - pharmacy student  
Mackenley Jean - pharmacy student

Kofi Hemmingway - athletics  
Andre Crumity – AFSCME (staff pay)

Provost Edington will provide a report to Trustee Washington regarding the pharmacy students that spoke during public comments. That report will be shared with the Board.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, President*

President Robinson provided an update on Goal 1 – Increase FAMU’s overall score on PBF metrics. He indicated that the official data will be reported in the annual Accountability Report, which will be available in April; however, it is projected that the University will have between 65 and 70 points. He then focused on three goals:

Goal 2 – Increase the four-year graduation rate. The goal is 25%, the current status is 22.5%. The University has made significant progress since 2014. The graduation rate has increased almost 10 percentage points.

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Goal 5 – Customer service initiative – The University is on-track to meet its goals. The consultant met with the Senior Leadership team and is scheduled to return to campus to discuss the findings. He will also attend the leadership retreat in June.

Goal 7 – Increase total R&D expenditures by 1%. The University has received 104 new awards and faculty have submitted over 87 million in grant proposals.

Next, President Robinson reminded the Board that the Board of Governors (BOG) has eliminated the bottom three. Institutions are still required to score at least 51 points to receive the institutional investment. FAMU has historically been above that threshold and has received that funding. The University is expected to show improvement in five of the metrics: Metrics 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9. He noted that in metric 9 the University should have an increase of 10 percentage points. President Robinson noted that a decline in the outcomes is expected in metrics 1, 2, 5 and 8 and they are looking at the root causes for the decline. He pointed out that the University has made significant progress with the six-year graduation rate, the Florida College System AA transfers headcount enrollment and the time to degree for FTICs in 120-hour programs.

The University held a strategic planning workshop with senior leadership, the deans and other key administrators on February 19, 2019. The workshop focused on four key priorities: enrollment, licensure pass rate, research, and graduation/retention. The next step is to meet with faculty and students to determine how the University can make progress in these four areas.

President Robinson reminded the Board that to get updates on his goals they can visit his website, which includes dashboards and data regarding the status of institutional goals.

President Robinson gave a brief update on athletics. He stated that the University has a monthly conference call regarding athletics, as well as a monthly call with the BOG staff regarding athletics budget issues. He also established an athletics taskforce, which looks at game day management and fundraising and he emphasized that the University strongly supports athletics.

President Robinson acknowledged the presence of Joe Maleskewski, the University's new vice president for audit.

## **INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROJECTS**

*Dr. Charles Weatherford, interim Vice President for Research*  
*Attorney Rica Calhoun, interim Vice President for Audit*

Dr. Weatherford provided a short update on the status of the hemp project. He stated that the Board would be asked to approve the final hemp projects for Future Farm Technologies, Green Earth Cannaceuticals, Inc.; and Sunshine Hemp, Inc. After approval is received, the

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University will move forward with final contract negotiations, which should be completed by March 15, 2019.

Trustee Moore moved approval of the aforementioned three hemp projects. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mills and the motion carried, unanimously.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Lawson recognized the Committee chairs to present their respective reports.

### **Academic and Student Affairs**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair*

Trustee Washington reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended approval of recommendations for sabbatical leave for the 2019 – 2020 academic year and revisions to Regulation 2.030. She said that the Committee also heard updates on the 2+2 program, hazing prevention initiatives, the status of key initiatives and the Marijuana Education and Research Initiative.

### **Special Committee on Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson indicated that the Special Committee on Athletics previewed the 2019 football season and they went through a detailed budget update. Chair Lawson noted that the Board was due the budget worksheet, so they can see the incoming revenue and expenses. The committee also discussed the athletic compliance program.

### **Audit and Compliance**

*Trustee Craig Reed, Chair*

Trustee Reed reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met and recommended approval of:

- The audit plan modification - Based on changes in the Division of Audit's required focus, adjustments have been made to the work plan to reallocate hours to those projects that required a higher level of oversight this year.
- Performance Based Funding Data Integrity Audit, which is a review of data submitted to the Board of Governors (BOG) related to Performance Funding indicated that controls were effective.

The Committee also heard updates on:

- External audits (financial federal awards, operational, and financial audits)

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- Status of prior audit findings
- Athletics
- Rattler Booster internal control review
- The compliance and ethics program

## **Budget, Finance and Facilities**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair*

Trustee Moore reported the Committee recommended approval of the Brooksville Solar Farm Initiative, the carry-forward budget (5% BOT requirement), amendment of Policy #2006-04 (P-card language change), and the budget amendment for housing repairs.

The Committee also heard presentations on six (6) information items. The Committee identified three items for follow-up:

- 1) Distribution of the Supplier Diversity Plan to trustees.
- 2) Providing information on MIT's solar farm agreement.
- 3) Distribution of monthly carry-forward report.

## **Direct Support Organizations**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch provided an update on the DSO Committee. He indicated that the Committee recommended acceptance of the revised FAMU Foundation Bylaws, approval of the Revised FY 2018-19 FAMU Foundation budget, and approval of proposed amendment to University Regulation 11.001 Requirements for Certification, Budget & Audit Review.

## **Governance**

*Trustee Harold Mills, Chair*

Committee Chair Trustee Harold Mills shared that the Committee recommended the repeal of Rule 6C3-11.001, Florida Administrative Code, Requirements for Certification, Budget and Audit Review. Next, the Committee received updates on the timelines for the BOT survey and President Robinson's self-evaluation and 2019/2020 goals.

Trustee Mills noted that Ms. Cohen Pippin, Director of Governmental Relations, could not attend the meeting because she was at the Capitol attending legislative committee meetings. He indicated that Ms. Cohen Pippin will be asked call each trustee and have one-on-one

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conversations to provide updates on the University's legislative budget request and to explain how our constituent groups are being used to promote our priorities.

**Strategic Planning and Performance Measures**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Committee Member*

Trustee Moore stated that the Committee heard an update on the Performance Based Funding Metrics and an update on the Strategic Plan implementation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Lawson asked if there were any additions to the consent agenda or if anything needed to be removed from the agenda. Trustee Moore noted the removal of BFF1 – the Brooksville Solar Farm, from the consent agenda. Chair Lawson then review the items that were on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Dortch moved approval of the consent agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Grable and the motion carried. The consent agenda included the following items:

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

BT1 December 7, 2018 and January 24, 2019 Minutes

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)**

ASA1 Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave

ASA2 Regulation 2.030, Student Activities

**Audit and Compliance Committee (AC)**

AC1 Audit Plan Modification

AC2 Performance Funding Data Integrity Audit

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

BFF2 Carry-forward Budget (5% BOT Requirement)

BFF3 Amend FAMU Policy 2006-04

BFF4 Housing Budget Amendment

**Direct Support Organizations Committee (DSO)**

DSO1 Revised Bylaws

DSO2 Revised FY 2018-19 Budget

DSO3 Amended University Regulation 11.001, Requirements for Certification, Budget and Audit Review

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**Governance Committee (G)**

G1 Repeal Rule 6C3-11, Florida Administrative Code

**BROOKSVILLE SOLAR FARM**

Dr. Fred Gainous, Attorney David Self, and individuals from Duke Energy were asked to come forward for the presentation and questions.

First, Attorney Self addressed a questions raised by the Board during the committee meeting regarding a solar program at MIT. He clarified that the MIT program did not involve a ground lease, but was actually a power purchase agreement.

Dr. Gainous addressed questions regarding the length of the proposed agreement. Trustee Carter, a former member of the Public Service Commission, indicated that the Commission came up with a standard offer contract that provided for a minimum of 20-25 years because it takes that long for the energy company to recoup their investment.

Trustee Dortch recommended that the Board go with the 25-year agreement, with the inclusion of an endowed scholarship fund for Florida A&M University, to accept the two five-year contract extension options. The representative from Duke Energy indicated that Duke was willing to have discussions regarding a scholarship fund.

Trustee Lawrence moved approval of the 25-year agreement with Duke, with the possibility of two five-year contract extensions. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moore. Trustee Dortch then offered a friendly amendment that Duke Energy commit to sit down and work-out an arrangement with FAMU around establishing an endowed scholarship fund at FAMU. Trustee Lawrence accepted the amendment and the motion carried. It is noted that Trustee Mill voted in opposition to the motion.

President Robinson thanked Dr. Gainous and his team for their work on this project.

Trustee David Jackson was recognized, as this was his last meeting as a member of the FAMU Board of Trustees. Trustee Jackson fondly recounted his experiences at FAMU and on the Board.

Chair Lawson also recognized Trustee Bettye Grable, Faculty Senate President, as her term is ending soon.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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