

Response re: President's Notes (College of Engineering)



# Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

TO: Members of the FAMU Board of Trustees

FROM: Jimmy L. Miller  
Vice President for Communications and External Relations *J.M.*

DATE: July 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Incorrect President's Notes Provided for Media Request

The document in question was thought to be the final draft of the President's Notes for the week ending May 22, 2015. This version was housed in the Office of Communications and External Relations' records as the version sent for distribution to the Board of Trustees.

The President tasks the Office with editing the final draft of the notes. Normally, the President's Office disseminates the notes to the Board, and in doing so copies me so that we may download the final version to our cloud-based filing system. This process has been a consistent practice since January 2015, without any issues.

Several circumstances led to the draft version of the notes being submitted and it was only on Tuesday when the Chair highlighted the difference that it was brought to the attention of the Office that we did not have the final revised version on file and, as a result, sent the incorrect version of the document to the press.

While there was no substantive difference in the document as it relates to the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, the Office would like to state for the record that the document was not altered or manipulated in any way for the press, but was simply sent as a misunderstanding.

The submission of the document to the press was an effort to respond quickly to the request of a journalist asking for specific documentation, and not an effort to provide incorrect information or altered information, as integrity and accuracy are key best practices for effective communication.

To prevent any future incidents, we have requested that the President's Office also copy an additional staff member in the Office of Communications and External Relations, to ensure that in my absence or in the event of an unforeseen circumstance the final version is copied to our records.

Incorrect President's Notes

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July 24, 2015

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention and for providing us with an opportunity to offer additional information. The correct version will be provided to the press immediately.

Email Sent to BOT:

President's Notes (College of Engineering)

**Subject:**  
**Attachments:**

FW: Notes from the President's desk (Week ending 5/22)  
Elmira\_Update 5-22-15.pdf; ATT00001.htm

**From:** "Hightower, Jacqueline D." <[jacqueline.hightower@famuedu.edu](mailto:jacqueline.hightower@famuedu.edu)>

**Date:** May 22, 2015 at 5:19:54 PM EDT

**To:** "Torey Alston ([toreyalston@yahoo.com](mailto:toreyalston@yahoo.com))" <[toreyalston@yahoo.com](mailto:toreyalston@yahoo.com)>, "Lucas Boyce" <[lboyce@orlandomagic.com](mailto:lboyce@orlandomagic.com)>, "Grable, Bettye" <[bettye.grable@famuedu.edu](mailto:bettye.grable@famuedu.edu)>, "Graham, Tonnette S." <[tonnette1.graham@famuedu.edu](mailto:tonnette1.graham@famuedu.edu)>, "Kelvin Lawson ([kelvinlawson1@aol.com](mailto:kelvinlawson1@aol.com))" <[kelvinlawson1@aol.com](mailto:kelvinlawson1@aol.com)>, Kelvin Lawson <[KLawson@Acosta.com](mailto:KLawson@Acosta.com)>, Spurgeon McWilliams <[swmcwill@embarqmail.com](mailto:swmcwill@embarqmail.com)>, "Rufus Montgomery" <[rufus.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:rufus.montgomery@gmail.com)>, "Kimberly Ann Moore ([mooreki@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:mooreki@tcc.fl.edu))" <[mooreki@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:mooreki@tcc.fl.edu)>, "Belinda Reed Shannon ([belinda.r.shannon@gsk.com](mailto:belinda.r.shannon@gsk.com))" <[belinda.r.shannon@gsk.com](mailto:belinda.r.shannon@gsk.com)>, Marjorie Turnbull <[TURNBULM@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:TURNBULM@tcc.fl.edu)>, Cleve Warren <[cleve.w@comcast.net](mailto:cleve.w@comcast.net)>, "Karl White 2 ([karl@elements-capital.com](mailto:karl@elements-capital.com))" <[karl@elements-capital.com](mailto:karl@elements-capital.com)>, "Robert Woody ([rlwoody53@yahoo.com](mailto:rlwoody53@yahoo.com))" <[rlwoody53@yahoo.com](mailto:rlwoody53@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** "Barge-Miles, Linda F." <[linda.bargemiles@famuedu.edu](mailto:linda.bargemiles@famuedu.edu)>, "Miller, Jimmy" <[jimmy.miller@famuedu.edu](mailto:jimmy.miller@famuedu.edu)>, "Mangum, Elmira" <[elmira.mangum@famuedu.edu](mailto:elmira.mangum@famuedu.edu)>

**Subject:** Notes from the President's desk (Week ending 5/22)

**SENT ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT ELMIRA MANGUM**

Trustees – Please enjoy the attached Notes from the President's desk.

Jacqueline D. Hightower, M.S. | Executive Assistant to the President | 400 Lee Hall – Tallahassee, FL 32307 | (850)599.3225 – office | (850)561.2152 – fax | [Jacqueline.hightower@famuedu.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.hightower@famuedu.edu) | [www.famuedu.edu](http://www.famuedu.edu)

# Notes from my desk

Week Ending: May 22, 2015

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

- Last Saturday, the alumni demonstrated their commitment to the University by raising more than \$200,000 at the National Alumni Association Convention in Houston, which is a 100 percent increase over the prior year's total. I will be calling each donor who gave more than \$5,000 to thank them personally for their generosity.
- Foundation Board Chair, Tom Jones hosted a wonderful fundraising reception during the Foundation Executive Board meeting in Houston. During the event I expressed my sincere gratitude for the gifts of their talent and time, as well as shared my vision for future fundraising efforts.
- As part of my continuing efforts to develop and strengthen partnerships with local and state officials, I met with Mayor Andrew Gillum on Monday.
- I talked to the alumni of the FAMU College of Engineering to gain insight into their desires for the future of the College.
- On Wednesday, I participated in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Governance Council meeting.
- The University hosted a highly informative international workshop highlighting cutting-edge research on DNA nanotechnology on campus this week. The featured speaker at the conference was Dr. Nadrian Seeman of New York University who is considered the father of DNA nanotechnology. His presentation was entitled, "DNA: Not Merely the Secret of Life." Additional scholars represented universities such as the University of Michigan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the University of Cambridge, the University of Washington, North Carolina State University, and several others.  
To see story click here <http://www.tinyurl.com/kukuxrf>
- Peter McPherson, President of the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU) visited the campus on Thursday to meet with me and members of the senior leadership team. The meeting focused on further examining the objectives of APLU and exploring how the organization can assist us to become a "Best in Class" internationally renowned doctoral research university.
- Please join me in congratulating our baseball team for capturing the MEAC Baseball Championship this past weekend. Under the leadership of Coach Jamey Shoupe, the team earned the title for the first time since 1994 with an 8-2 victory over arch-rival Bethune-Cookman University in Salisbury, Maryland. The victory earned the Rattlers a berth in the NCAA Regional Baseball Championship Series for the first time in FAMU's history.
- Thirty-six future Rattlers celebrated graduation from the New Beginnings VPK program on Friday morning. I congratulated and encouraged them to continue to work hard and make us all proud.
- Thank you for approving the University's Work Plan earlier today. We look forward to presenting at the upcoming BOG meeting in Tampa.

## <sup>2</sup> Notes from my desk

- Please note that dinner will not take place at my residence on June 9<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of the dinner, Trustee Montgomery is hosting a public meeting from 6-9 pm at the Black Archives.

### Quote of the Week:

*"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give"* – **Sir Winston Churchill**

Email Sent Media in Response to Records Request:  
President's Notes (College of Engineering)



**From:** Stewart, Kanya [<mailto:kanya.stewart@fam.u.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2015 12:47 PM  
**To:** Dobson, Byron  
**Subject:** Responses to COE Questions from VP Miller

Mr. Dobson below are responses from **VP Jimmy Miller** to your questions regarding the COE. Thanks.

**Q. How did the decision come about to have FSU become the fiscal agent for the College of Engineering? Who originated the idea and who signed off on it?**

**A.** The decision emanated from the dialogue by the members of the Joint College Governance Council about how to make significant organizational structure changes to address the myriad of issues outlined in the CBT Report. The CBT report highlighted the timely processing of documents and the decline in the enrollment of FAMU students and the number of FAMU faculty members as matters that needed to be addressed to strengthen the operation of the COE. Shifting the "fiscal agent" responsibilities to FSU and the responsibility for hiring the dean to FAMU is designed to help address these issues.

On May 20, 2015, the Governance Council adopted a resolution approving the actions mentioned above.

On March 5, 2015, I provided the Board with an update on the revisions being made to the joint management agreement. The Board was notified of the May 20 meeting, at which the decision was made via my weekly notes, which were distributed to the Board on May 22.

A communication was also sent on June 1 explaining the status of the dean of the COE and FAMU's role in selecting the next dean.

The minutes of the May 20 meeting are attached.

**Q. What is the biggest misinterpretation about this new arrangement? Hasn't FAMU been in charge as the fiscal agent up to now?**

A. FAMU was the fiscal agent up to now. The biggest misinterpretation, in my opinion, is that that FSU controls the purse strings. FSU is the fiscal agent for the joint budget, which is \$12.9 million, including \$1.3 million that is set aside for repair and maintenance. The fiscal agent does not make decisions regarding the FAMU portion of that budget. FAMU has line items in its budget for faculty, staff, and other expenses that we pay for, then get reimbursed by the fiscal agent from the joint budget entity. These line items will now include the dean position.

**Q. As fiscal agent, what responsibilities in operating the college does this give to FSU? Will the annual budget now be part of FSU's annual budget?**

A. See answer above.

No, the Governance Council authorized the creation of a "new joint budget entity for the Joint College." The joint budget entity is to include all operating funds for the Joint College including any funds appropriated for plant operations and development.

Decisions regarding the joint entity are made jointly. So in effect, the joint budget is not a part of the budget of FSU but is a separate and distinct entity for which FSU has been designated to be the fiscal agent. A fiscal agent is similar to a "back-office" manager and processes and administers financial items.

**Q. Who are the members of the new 12-member Governance Council and who do they represent?**

A. The 12 members of the Council are identified in the attached FAQs document.

**Q. From what I understand, FAMU will be responsible for hiring the new dean? Will this person automatically be a FAMU tenured faculty member, or could he/she be a tenured FSU faculty member?**

A. The dean position will be a FAMU line item, and therefore FAMU will be responsible for hiring the new dean. We are seeking a highly qualified and innovative candidate who is capable of getting tenure at FSU. Tenure is never automatic.

**Q. Was the plan to move the fiscal agent responsibility from FAMU to FSU communicated to FAMU's Board of Trustees? If so, can you provide me a copy of that correspondence?**

A. Please see the first answer. In addition, we believe the actions taken by the Governance Council on May 20 are fully consistent with the Board of Trustees' action and comments at its February 2015 meeting where the President was authorized to do what is necessary to assure the continuing existence of the joint COE.

**Q. What has been the reaction from the FAMU alumni regarding this move and what prompted you to send out the Q and A? Was a news release ever sent out on the new arrangement between the universities, and if so, can you forward to me?**

A. There has been a large volume of social media response that we are reviewing because we value the opinion of our alums and supporters.

A news release was sent out June 1 that indicated that FAMU had now taken responsibility for the deanship. The FAQs were sent out to provide clarity to some misreported information and to keep our stakeholders

informed. The reaction of our alumni has been representative of what they do on a daily basis – care about the well-being of this University.

**Kanya Stewart**

Media Relations Coordinator/ Senior Information Specialist

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University**

Office of Communications and External Relations

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Tallahassee, FL 32307

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# Notes from my desk

Week Ending: May 22, 2015

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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- As part of my continuing efforts to develop and strengthen partnerships with local and state officials, I met with Mayor Andrew Gillum on Monday.
- I talked to the alumni of the FAMU College of Engineering to gain insight into their desires for the future of the College.
- On Wednesday, I participated in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Governance Council meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity to gain more information on the future management and general operation of the College.
- I had an opportunity to meet with Chair Rufus Montgomery during his visit to campus on Tuesday. The meeting served as a venue to expound on my long-term strategic initiatives for the University as they relate to the guidance and strategic mandates of the Board of Trustees. Chair Montgomery also met with members of the Governmental Relations Office during his visit. Later in the week, I spoke to the Board of Trustees regarding the University's Work Plan.
- The University hosted a highly informative international workshop highlighting cutting-edge research on DNA nanotechnology on campus this week. The featured speaker at the conference was Dr. Nadrian Seeman of New York University who is considered the father of DNA nanotechnology. His presentation was entitled, "DNA: Not Merely the Secret of Life." Additional scholars represented universities such as the University of Michigan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the University of Cambridge, the University of Washington, North Carolina State University, and several others. To see story click here <http://www.tinyurl.com/kukuxrf>
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- I enjoyed a wonderful experience at the New Beginnings VPK Graduation on Friday morning. Dr. Reva Meyers and her staff are doing an excellent job with the boys and girls under their tutelage.

## Quote of the Week:

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