

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) and Athletics Committee Minutes
Trustee Deveron Gibbons, Chair
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Trustee Deveron Gibbons called the meeting to order. Trustees John Crossman, Kelvin Lawson, Belvin Perry, Jr., Nicole Washington and Michael White were in attendance and established a quorum. Trustees Natlie Figgers and Kenny Stone were not in attendance due to previous commitments.

Approval of December 6, 2023, DSO and Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Lawson motioned for approval; seconded by Trustee Perry. The motion passed, unanimously.

Approval of FAMU Foundation Board Action Items

- A. Foundation Bylaws Recommended Amendments
- B. Approval of 2023-2024 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment

Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud presented to the Committee consideration for approval the FAMU Foundation Amended Bylaws. The Foundation Bylaws were amended to include term limits for board members beginning January 2024 and thereafter. Foundation Board Directors would be allowed to serve a maximum of three (3) 4-year terms or a total of twelve (12) years.

The Committee discussed this item and Trustee Gibbons referenced the Alexander Haas Consultant Report Recommendations from the Foundation Board's engagement with the firm in 2021. The Committee highlighted recommendations from the report that addressed a review of the Foundation Bylaws, Investment Policy, and Spending Policy. Dr. Friday-Stroud informed the committee that many of the recommendations from the original report had been implemented and that the Foundation General Counsel had reviewed the bylaws and determined they were in compliance with applicable SUS guidelines.

Foundation Board Chair LaBoo stated that she requested for the Foundation Bylaws Committee Chair to review the bylaws in comparison with other SUS Foundations to ensure alignment with best practices.

Dr. Friday-Stroud informed the Committee that there would be a Budget and Finance Workshop for the Foundation Board, which the BOT members were also invited, and that the UA Team will include a review of the investments.

A motion was made to approve the Foundation Bylaws recommended amendments. Trustee Lawson motioned for approval; seconded by Trustee White. The motion passed, unanimously.

Next, Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud presented to the Committee consideration for approval the of the 2023-2024 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment in the amount of \$700,000 to include \$400,000 for Athletics Summer 2024 scholarships; \$100,000 for the Marching 100 to travel to a Fall 2024 SWAC game; and \$200,000 to cover the costs of approved departmental priority projects identified by the VP/AD.

The Committee discussed this action item, citing the need for a comprehensive Athletics department budget that details all existing sources of revenue and projected expenses, challenging the Rattler Boosters and alums/friends of the University to provide additional support to the Athletics department and formation of a Strategic Board whose charge is to develop a financial sustainability plan for Athletics through multiple years.

Dr. Friday-Stroud stated that she would work with VP/AD Sykes to develop a comprehensive budget that details all inflows and outflows of the department. She also relayed that the Rattler Boosters was still in its infancy,

having only been recertified as a Direct Support Organization in 2018, and still needs time to develop infrastructure to provide enhanced support. Trustee Harper stated that she would be creating a special ad-hoc committee to construct a plan to address the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Athletics department.

A motion was made to approve the 2023-2024 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment in the amount of \$700,000 to include \$400,000 for Athletics Summer 2024 scholarships; \$100,000 for the Marching 100 to travel to a Fall 2024 SWAC game; and \$200,000 to cover the costs of approved departmental priority projects identified by the VP/AD. Trustee Perry motioned for approval; seconded by Trustee White. The motion passed, unanimously.

Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D., provided updates on Divisional Activities

A. FY 2023-24 University Advancement

- FY 2023-2024 Fundraising Progress as of February 14, 2024:
 - Raised over \$19,093,905.70 (95% of \$20M Goal)
 - New Cash - \$17,500,205.70 (91% of Total & 87% of \$20M Goal)
 - Pledges & Planned Gifts
 - Current - \$1,593,700 (9% of Total & 13% of \$20M Goal)

B. DSO Updates

1. FAMU Foundation, Inc.

- FAMU Foundation Spring 2024 Board of Directors Meeting will be held on May 30 – June 1, 2024, in Tampa, FL, in conjunction with the FAMU NAA Convention.
- Investment Value - \$180,085,971 as of December 31, 2023, compared to \$150,825,131 as of October 31, 2023.
- Endowment Value - \$115,386,344 as of December 31, 2023, compared to \$104,993,207 as of October 31, 2023.

2. FAMU National Alumni Association (NAA)

- Chair Harper is dedicated to continued collaboration between our DSO's and is pleased to have commitments from the FAMU Foundation, and FAMU Boosters to join the FAMU NAA for meetings at their National Convention on May 30- June 2, 2024, at the Hyatt Grand Hotel in Tampa, Florida... "One FAMU Stronger Together."
- The FAMU NAA and the University collaborated to host an awesome mission of advocacy. FAMU Day at the Capitol events began with a welcome reception Tuesday evening February 20 at the historic Union Bank archives in the shadows of the state Capitol. State Lawmakers city, county leaders, alumni ambassadors, students, Trustees and University leadership attended.
- The following day, the FAMU Marching 100 and FAMU Cheerleaders were striking strong as that good ole FAMU spirit filled the air of the Capitol courtyard - the backdrop for the launch of a long day of advocacy.

- Alumni traveled from all over Florida and other states, including from the west coast, for legislative visits, and to glean more about key initiatives in FAMUs legislative budget request. We had awesome support from SGA leaders and students from SBI.
- A vast platform of recruiters from colleges and schools showcased the great things happening in their respective areas on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the State Capitol.
- Although we celebrated our day of advocacy, we also paused for a moment of remembrance saluting the life and legacy of former FAMU Government Affairs Director Barbara Cohen Pippin who passed away early this year.

3. FAMU Rattler Boosters

- Rattler Boosters Inc. has 246 Life Members, 14 Subscribing Life Members, and 85 Regular Members.
- Rattler Boosters is reviewing the current Constitution and By-laws for Updates.
- Started planning the Student Athletics Banquet.
- The Rattler Boosters would like to congratulate Coach James Colzie, III.
- Congratulations to Coaches Garfield Ellenwood II, Robert Deadyler II, and Tameka Kinchen, for winning the Women's Track and Field Indoor SWAC Championship.
- The Rattler Boosters would also like to congratulate all the SWAC Championship Teams so far, this academic year, and cheering on the remaining Spring sports on to Championship Titles too.

Foundation Board Chair LaBoo commented that she has also formed an ad-hoc committee of Foundation Board Directors to review best practices for Athletics department funding and to make recommendations of how the Foundation Board can assist with the department's long-term sustainability.

Athletic Directors Report

A. Athletics Department Update

VP/AD Tiffani-Dawn Sykes provided an update to the Committee on the Athletics Department.

- 2023 Celebration Bowl Winners | HBCU National Champions
- 2024 SWAC Women's Indoor Track & Field Champions
 - First ever Championship since 1999
 - Garfield Ellenwood, II – Named Women's Indoor Track & Field Coach of the Year

- Florida A&M Nike Summer Interns
 - Alaya Dotson, Women's Track and Field Athlete (Sprints), Sophomore, Killeen, TX
 - Alyssa Summers, Women's Track and Field Athlete (Javelin), Junior, Miami, FL

- 14 NCAA Division I Sports and Cheer
 - Men's (6)
 - Football, Basketball, Baseball, Golf, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field
 - Women's (8)
 - Basketball, Volleyball, Cross Country, Bowling, Softball, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field

- FAMU Softball Field Naming Dedication Ceremony for Coach Veronica Wiggins was held on Saturday, March 2.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.