

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 5, 2012  
8:30 a.m.**

Trustees Present: Torey Alston, Solomon Badger, William Jennings, Charles Langston, Kelvin Lawson, Spurgeon McWilliams, Rufus Montgomery, Narayan Persaud, Belinda Reed Shannon, Marjorie Turnbull, Cleve Warren, Marissa West, and Karl White.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Dr. Solomon Badger, Chairman*

Chairman Badger called the meeting to order and Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll. A quorum was established.

**II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Larry Robinson, Interim President*

Chairman Badger recognized Dr. Larry Robinson, Interim President to provide the Board an update on several University matters:

Dr. Robinson highlighted several areas of interest that had occurred at the University since the last Board of Trustees meeting.

- Two College of Law students won the Puerto Rican Bar Association moot court competition
- The Commission on the accreditation on Respiratory Care voted to remove the University's program in Cardio-Pulmonary Sciences from probationary status.
- Elementary Education ESOL Reading Endorsement and Bachelor's degree programs received full approval by Florida Department of Education.
- The accreditation for the School of Architecture was reaffirmed. This program has been accredited for 32 years.
- In the area of operations, FAMU has gone live with it on-line transcripts requests. Transcripts can now be ordered on-line.
- In January 2013, the University's e-mail system for students will migrate from Microsoft Outlook to MicrosoftLive.edu, which is a cloud based e-mail service. The University will move to Microsoft Exchange2010 for faculty and staff.
- The head football coach position has been advertised. The position closes December 11, 2013 and a search committee has been established.
- Provost Wright, President Robinson and the SACS team will attend the SACS meeting, which begins December 8, 2012.

- The University will host its holiday celebration/toy drive on December 12, 2012.
- Fall Commencement will be held in the Alfred Lawson Center on December 14, 2012.
- The University will close in observance of its Winter Break December 24, 2012 - January 1, 2013.
- Trustee Persaud raised questions regarding the College of Law, American Bar Association Accreditation Visit Report and the bar passage rate. He stated that he was concerned about issues that were raised by the ABA four years ago, the mission change and the low bar passage rate. Dr. Robinson assured him that the University has already begun to address the problems that were identified by the ABA. One of the issues was bar passage. The University established a fee, which was approved by the Board of Governors. The new fee will allow the University to charge students for the bar preparation program. He stated that with this realignment of resources, students will be better prepared in their academic program of study. He also noted that the July 2012 bar scores were the highest that that the graduates have reached for first-time takers, which is a move in the right direction.
- Trustee McWilliams raised concerns regarding the filling of the head football coach and the director of marching bands. He stated that his constituents have expressed concerns about when those positions will be filled.
- Trustee White requested an update on sponsored research, including patents. President Robinson indicated that Dr. Ken Redda, interim Vice President for Research, will give a formal update at the next Board meeting.
- Trustee Lawson asked that the Board be provided an update on the vacancies at the University, including deanships.

### **III. Update on Anti-Hazing Plan**

*Trustee Belinda Shannon*

- Trustee Shannon provided an update on the University's anti-hazing plan. She stated that the University has created an anti-hazing website, it hosted an anti-hazing town hall meeting and it has re-instated intake in student organizations with enhanced requirements. The University created several new positions: two in judicial affairs, a special assistant to the president for anti-hazing, and music compliance officer. The University is also working to re-constitute the Anti-Hazing Committee. The following individuals have agreed to serve: Vice Admiral Retired Navy David Brewer, Dr. Michael Bouie, Dr. Eugene Emory, Attorney Rasheed Ali Cromwell, and Professor Cheryl Grills. Admiral Brewer will chair the committee. This Committee is charged with focusing on the hazing

practices on campus and how hazing can be curtailed. The Committee will also work closely with the new special assistant to the president for anti-hazing.

- The Board entertained a discussion regarding services that have been provided by DKC regarding crisis management, as the current contract was slated to end January 13, 2013. The contract for consulting services is \$7,500 per month. Trustee Shannon moved approval of the new contract. The motion was seconded by Trustee White. The Board raised several concerns regarding the scope of the contract and requested a year-end report from DKC outlining the matters it had handled. Trustee Turnbull offered a substitute motion which would extend the contract for two months from the time it expires. The motion was accepted by Trustee Shannon and seconded by Trustee Langston. The motion carried. The Board also asked for additional information from DKC regarding re-branding.
- Trustee Turnbull inquired about the interviews of candidates for the director of marching and pep bands. She suggested that the candidates should be fully vetted regarding hazing, as they are being interviewed. She further suggested that candidates should be asked if they had participated in hazing, if they had been hazed, had they ever worked somewhere where hazing occurred, and what would they do to curtail hazing. She indicated that this information is critical. Provost Rodner Wright confirmed that candidates had been asked those questions regarding hazing.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH**

*Trustee Karl White*

Trustee Badger recognized Trustee White for an update on the presidential search process. He indicated that the search committee had met earlier that morning. He stated that the University has retained a search firm, Greenwood-Asher. Two representatives from the firm, Ms. Marion Frenche and Ms. Julie Holley, gave a presentation during the earlier session, regarding the firm and the services it offers. The firm will begin to develop a position statement and advertise the position. He state that the committee anticipates that the University will have a new president in place by the beginning of the fiscal year.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON 800-BED FACILITY**

*Mr. Kendall Jones, Associate Vice President for Construction and Facilities Management*

Mr. Joseph Bakker, Interim Vice President for Administrative and Financial Services called on Kendall Jones to present an update regarding the 800-bed unit. Mr. Jones reported that the University issued a "Notice to Proceed" with the construction of the 800-bed dormitory project to J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc, on November 27, 2012.

He stated that the contractor is scheduled to start work on the construction site on November 30, 2012 and that they are working on the design of the elevators. He confirmed that the project is on schedule and remains within the budget.

Mr. Jones also indicated that the Gore Education Complex is 98% complete and is expected to be occupied in January 2013. The project will make available new classrooms, office space, and labs. It was completed within budget.

#### **UPDATE ON FOOD SERVICES**

*Mrs. Jackye Maxey, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Affairs*

Next, Mrs. Jackye Maxey provided an update on dining services. She informed the Board that the University issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for dining services on September 19, 2012, because the existing five-year \$45 million contract with Sodexo ends June 30, 2013. Three firms submitted written responses to the ITN. Those firms have been short listed for further consideration: Aramark, Gourmet Services and Sodexo. She stated that President Robinson has appointed a committee to conduct site visits and interview these companies.

#### **V. CLOSED SESSION**

*Mr. Avery McKnight, Vice President for Legal Affairs*

Chairman Badger asked Vice President McKnight to provide instructions regarding the closed attorney/client session and closed collective bargaining session. The Board moved into the closed sessions. The first closed session dealt with Collective Bargaining. At the conclusion of that session, the Board moved into its attorney-client closed session regarding litigation.

#### **VI. OPEN SESSION**

Chair Badger moved the meeting back into open session.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Badger recognized the individuals that requested to speak to the Board. Comments were provided by the following individuals:

- Paul Curtis submitted a written request to speak to the Board. He asked the Board to reconsider the closure of the civil engineering technology program.
- Mr. Kyle Washington
- Dr. Clyde Ashley
- Dr. Jacqueline Beck

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Badger asked if there was any additional business for the Board. With there being none, the meeting adjourned.