

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



**Special Committee on the College of Law  
Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2017**

Trustee Belvin Perry called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Belvin Perry and Robert Woody.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the June 7, 2017 minutes. Trustee Woody made the motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Perry and the motion carried.

Trustee Perry stated that Chair Lawson put the committee together because there were concerns regarding the Bar passage rate. He stated that there were three guiding principles when conducting a review:

1. Information - Was there enough information because information gives you what you need to know
2. Debate - Was there healthy debate because you often come up with good solutions
3. Accountability - Was there accountability because it often breeds responsibility.

The goal of this committee was to try to get as much information as possible so that the Board could try to make intelligent decisions, as to policy matters.

Trustee Perry then asked Dean Pernell to provide an update. Dean Pernell shared the following:

1. New Measures implemented to address the bar passage rate – first time
  - Hired an academic planning for success advisor (for students on probation and for course selection)
  - In January 2018, the law school will have a mandatory upper level exam for 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year part-time students. It measures knowledge and analytical skills. Work on identified deficiencies.
  - Implemented “small section program” for 1<sup>st</sup> year students to increase interaction with faculty.
  - Appointed permanent director of the bar prep program.
  - Hired additional academic support staff and a permanent legal writing program director.
  - He shared that eighty-two percent of the graduates of the College of Law are members of the Florida Bar.
2. ABA accreditation
  - Sabbatical visit will be in Spring 2019
  - Annual questionnaire has been submitted to ABA

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### 3. Admission requirements

- Not changed, average LSAT at 147 (nationally average LSAT is 154, for AA LSAT is 144)

### 4. Legal clinics and field placements

- Hired a director of legal clinics and field placements
- Strong student response to field placements (working on field placements with compensation and academic credit)

Dean Pernell reported that the COL is pursuing placements with several law firms. He indicated that the law school has a good reputation in the community. The COL is engaging with Valencia and UCF to look at opportunities in regards to the downtown revitalization/expansion occurring in the law school area. They are also working on reestablishing ties with the business community.

Chair Lawson indicated that he still wants the committee to conduct a site visit. Scope of the committee includes how the Board can support the COL and make it more viable in the business community. He asked Trustees Mills to serve as a business resource and added Trustee Harrison to the committee as a member. He suggested that the committee focus on economic development/community development and organizational effectiveness, guided by the dean. He also suggested that the committee meet with the faculty collectively.

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