

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Minutes
Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair
October 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Nicole Washington. Ms. Valeria Singleton called the roll and the following committee members were present: Zachary Bell, Ann Marie Cavazos, Michael Dubose, Kristin Harper, and Nicole Washington. A quorum was established.

Trustee Harper moved to approve the minutes for the meeting on June 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cavazos and the motion carried.

There are two follow up items from previous Board meeting:

- During the June BOT meeting, there was a request regarding the veteran population and their progress through the university. The Office of Veterans Affairs will make a presentation during the December BOT meeting.
- During the August retreat, Provost Edington requested that Civil Discourse Report be submitted for Board approval during the special BOT meeting in September. The Civil Discourse Report was approved during the special BOT meeting on September 22.

Action Item V (Tenure Upon Appointment – Dean Mira Lowe) and Action Item VII (Request for Leave without Pay for Nandi Riley) were removed from the agenda. The items may be brought back for consideration at the December meeting.

The Committee recommended approval of the following item:

Tenure Upon Appointment for Dean Suvranu De - In accordance with BOT Regulation 10.204 and Article 15.8 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (2019 – 2022), tenure may be granted to a faculty member by the Board at the time of initial appointment, upon recommendation of the appropriate administrator (President or President’s designee). The administrator shall consider the recommendation of the department or equivalent unit prior to making his/her final tenure recommendation.

Requests for Tenure Upon Appointment are approved by the Provost and President. The documentation has been reviewed by the school/college tenure and promotion committee and the university-wide tenure and promotion committee. The credentials for Dean Suvranu De was reviewed for evidence of highly competent teaching, research and other scholarly activities, services, and contributions to the University and to society.

Trustee Harper moved to approve the tenure upon appointment for Dean Suvranu De. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bell and the motion carried.

Student Affairs Updates – informational updates were provided:

- Dr. William Hudson, Jr., and his team provided updates on enrollment, the transfer program, housing, financial aid, and hazing prevention.
- Ms. Teri Little-Berry provided an update on enrollment and the transfer program:
 - The fall 2022 application cycle was a record year for applications at the undergraduate level. This resulted in a 30% increase in the number of students admitted. As a result, our overall yield rate increased to 51%, which equates to 1,543 new FTIC enrolled for fall 2022. The academic profile of our incoming classes continues to increase. In fall 2021, the students admitted had a 3.78 grade point average. In fall 2022, the students admitted had a 3.91 grade point average.
 - There is a total of 1,927 students in the IGNITE program. The FCS transfer enrollment continues to increase. There were 496 FCS transfer students admitted representing a 17% increase over fall 2021 and 15% increase over fall 2020.
 - The University continues to see growth in enrollment. There is a total of 9,216 students enrolled this term.
- **Pest Issues** – Dr. Jennifer Wilder provided an update on the recent housing issues. In August, some of the Phase III residents experienced and reported issues with pests. These concerns prompted inspections and subsequent treatment by professional exterminators. To allow for a full remediation of the issue and to ensure the safety and well-being of students, the residents were temporarily relocated to local lodging. There were 297 students relocated. While the residence hall was being fumigated, baited, sealed, and cleaned, the University provided wrap around student services including on-site security, communications, shuttles, and meal plans. The Phase III residents returned on September 2. Residents in Phase III were provided information on the pest control treatment, what to expect, and how to report any continuing pest issues. Recently, Dr. Wilder visited the facilities along with the housing staff and maintenance staff, and engaged student residents to assure them that the University will provide continued support. The Housing Office staff will continue to monitor, inspect, and perform routine bi-weekly pest control, and supplement those treatments as needed.

In the future, the Housing Office will plan ahead to ensure that there are no summer cross-scheduling conflicts (i.e., summer camps) which would prevent the routine maintenance, fumigation, and cleaning of these facilities prior to students moving in for the fall semester. Palmetto South will be closed for summer 2023.

The second housing issue occurred at the Polkinghorne Village West on August 26 when a student initiated a fire hazard which triggered the sprinkler system. This caused flooding on the fourth floor with associated water damage impacting floors one through four. The impacted students were relocated to local lodging while contractors worked on cleaning, drying, and sanitizing the facilities. There were 120 students relocated. The University provided the student residents with instructions on how to report and apply for coverage for lost and damaged

property. Again, wrap-around student services were provided including lodging, on-site security, and shuttle service.

Dr. Wilder stated that she is proud of the way the team responded to this unforeseen circumstance and worked hard to address student needs throughout all phases. We will ensure strong and continuous communications with our student residents and timely responses to issues as they arise.

Question: What can be done differently to ensure these issues do not happen again?

Response: It was the magnitude of the complaints that facilitated the decision to relocate the students and remediate the situation. We have learned that the timing between the typical summer activities and the week zero football game compressed the schedule and the maintenance was not able to be completed timely. We must manage the nature of the summer activities to ensure that maintenance is completed.

Another lesson learned is to do a better job communicating with the students and educating the Resident Assistants regarding pest control issues and building maintenance.

Dr. Hudson acknowledged that he is ultimately responsible for housing issues, financial aid issues, and other issues relating to student affairs.

Dr. Jennifer Wilder and AVP Antoneia Roe serve as the accountability managers for Housing.

Financial Aid - Next was an update on the implementation of the Oracle Student Financial portal by Ms. Lisa Stewart, Director; and Ms. Lassandra Brice, Associate Director.

- Ms. Stewart briefly discussed the accomplished tasks, In-Progress, and planned actions as it relates to the student financial portal (SFP). There are several positive impacts of SFP on the students and on the staff. Some of the impacts for students include high visibility, clear program eligibility, electronic document submission, simplified verification, and imbedded loan counseling/debt management. Some of the impacts for staff include substantially improved business processes such as the verification of parent signature process, document intake, updated student loan data, Department of Education annual updates, improved compliance, and same day awarding. However, with the advent of new technology there are some issues that the FAMU Office of Financial Aid, FAMU IT, Sierra Cedar, and Oracle have been working to resolve.
- Ms. Stewart provided some lessons learned and plans for improvement:
 - The plan is to continue to provide workshops through orientation and through colleges/schools.
 - The Office of Financial Aid will provide pop up sessions for residential students and off-campus students.

There were suggestions that updates about the new financial aid processes should be provided during orientation to include the parents' sessions.

- Ms. Brice stated that FAMU was able to increase the number of FAFSA applications loaded and matched to students by 19% increase for aid year 2022. In addition, FAMU was able to

increase the number of FAFSA applications loaded and matched to students by 1% increase for aid year 2023.

- SFP allows same day awarding which means that students are admitted and awarded financial aid on the same day with little to no manual intervention. For FY 2022, there were 9,600 students awarded for fall, spring, and summer. For FY 2023, there were 9,123 students awarded (as of October 4, 2022).
 - Ms. Rayna Forbes from Oracle Higher Education provided brief comments. FAMU is leading the Oracle SFP development roadmap through their chair membership in the Oracle SFP Customer Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB is a limited, exclusive privilege reserved for those institutions that Oracle believes will guide SFP to maintain its leadership position as the preeminent financial aid system in the United States. FAMU, along with universities including UCLA, Rutgers, Pennsylvania State, and Michigan State (among others), will be the driving force for the entire higher education industry for the administration of financial aid.
 - To ensure accountability there continues to be weekly meetings with the technical team. The Office of Financial Aid accountability managers are Ms. Lassandra Brice, Associate Director of Financial Aid; Ms. Lisa Stewart, Director of Financial Aid; and Dr. Nigel Edwards, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. Through their collaborative efforts with other departments campus-wide, improved communication plan, and outreach--we are confident that our goal to improve business processes and move to a system that improves user access will come to fruition.
- The final informational update was regarding the hazing prevention initiatives.
 - The 2022 Hazing Prevention Summit was held in conjunction with the SUS Campus Safety Retreat on July 27 on the campus of the University of South Florida.
 - Rattler Roundup was held on September 7 and September 8. These trainings provided hazing prevention education to all student organizations and student organization advisors.
 - The University has one open investigation of a possible violation of University Regulation 2.028.
 - Additional hazing prevention trainings are scheduled this semester for the Department of Athletics; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and ROTC cadets. Mr. Smith will continue to incorporate the hazing prevention trainings into the Orientation campus safety trainings.
 - National Hazing Prevention Week was recognized September 20 through September 23.

Academic Affairs Updates – The following informational updates were provided:

- Provost Edington provided brief updates.

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- Developmental Studies Program: Developmental education focuses on providing academic and supplemental resources to prepare students who have low standardized test scores to be successful in college-level courses.
 - Provided data to reflect the reduction in the number of students needing developmental courses.
 - Provided data to reflect the increase in the academic profile of incoming cohorts. The average GPA for students enrolled in developmental courses is 3.47 GPA. Whereas the average GPA for students not enrolled in developmental courses is 3.76 GPA.
 - There is a correlation between high school GPA and first year performance.
- Licensure Passage Rate Improvement Plans – Updates on the progress to achieve and sustain academic excellence in the health professions programs.
 - Dean Johnson provided an update on the Academic Support Services offered in the School of Nursing to include Nursing Living Learning Community; First Year Experience; success coaches; skill and simulation lab with personnel to assist the students; semester skills review; open lab hours; individual student ATI performance dashboard reviews; early-risk identification system (Civitas) is a mandatory service and student cannot opt out; and supplemental resources to include apps that are built into their courses. The students are given intensive review of content at the end of each semester. In addition, after graduation the students can access continued ATI resources.
 - Fourteen out of the fifteen students that graduated in May passed the NCLEX.
 - A ribbon cutting ceremony for the simulation lab will be held soon. A tour will be planned for December.
 - On the accreditation side, the SON is on good cause. However, on the regulatory side, the SON is on probation. A decision will be rendered in January 2023.
 - Director Tracy Thomas provided a brief update on the Academic Support Services offered in the Division of Physical Therapy. All of the services offered are mandatory.
 - Dean Early and his team provided an update on the Academic Support Services offered in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. All of the services offered are mandatory except the living learning community and academic advisors for pre-pharmacy.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Washington, Committee Chair