

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll. The following trustees were present, establishing a quorum: Bell, Cavazos, Cliatt, Dubose, Figgers, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, Perry, Stone, and Washington.

Chair Lawson welcomed Trustee Figgers and Gibbons to the Board of Trustees. After the introduction, the two of them addressed the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Chair Lawson extended congratulations to Michael Simmons regarding his retirement in May 2023. Mr. Simmons shepherded the Board through COVID, and thereafter as the Board began to hold its meetings on the Zoom platform.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Kenny Stone, Committee Chair

Next, Trustee Stone reported that the Governance Committee received nominations for vice chair of the Board of Trustees. Those nominees were Trustee Nicole Washington and Trustee Kristin Harper.

VICE CHAIR ELECTION:

Trustee Cliatt asked if each nominee could be given the opportunity to speak before the Board. Chair Lawson agreed to his request. Trustees Harper and Washington shared the reasons they desired to serve as vice chair of the Board.

Chair Lawson asked for a roll call vote. Trustees cast their votes as follows:

Trustee Bell	Harper
Trustee Cavazos	Harper
Trustee Cliatt	Harper
Trustee Dubose	Harper
Trustee Figgers	Harper
Trustee Gibbons	Washington
Trustee Harper	Harper
Trustee Lawson	Washington

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Trustee Perry	Washington
Trustee Stone	Harper
Trustee Washington	Washington

The results reflected seven (7) votes for Trustee Harper and four (4) votes for Trustee Washington. Chair Lawson announced and congratulated Trustee Harper as the new chair of the FAMU Board of Trustees.

2023 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Washington, Dr. Maurice Edington, and Dr. Kelly McMurray to review the University’s 2023 Accountability Plan which will be considered by the Board of Governors during its June 2023 meeting. The Plan outlines the goals and strategies for the next year, as well as key metrics for five (5) years forward. The Plan is also aligned with the University’s strategic plan.

The University will focus on

- Faculty excellence and vitality
- Student success, and
- FAMU’s reputation, rankings, and impact

FAMU updated its Graduation Rate Improvement Plan, which shows overall progress on retention rates and graduation rates. Dr. McMurray shared that in the performance-based funding metrics, the University surpassed the approved goals for two metrics: median wages for bachelor’s degree graduates employed full-time and average cost to students. The University also improved on seven (7) metrics and declined on three (3).

The University also included new programs it’s considering:

2023-2024	<u>Undergraduate</u> Education Innovation Health Promotions	<u>Masters</u> Construction Mgmt. and Engineering Tech. Data Science Health Informatics
2024-2026	Business Analytics Data Science	Medical Sciences
	<u>Doctoral Degrees</u> Biology Sustainability Sciences	

Trustee Cliatt asked if Provost Watson and COO Edington could meet with him and share data on the proposed majors, such as the expectation of annual salaries upon graduation. COO Edington shared that the Board is not approving the programs, but it is giving the administration the authority to initiate the planning process. The administration will come back to the Board for approval, with proposals that contain pertinent information.

Trustee Dubose moved approval of the Plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee Harper and passed unanimously.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The first action item was approving the Architect/Engineering Services contract for student housing construction. VP Rebecca Brown shared that the University plans to construct three (3) residential facilities over the next (3) years. Two facilities would come online in the summer of 2024 and the second phase would open in fall 2026. She stated that the projects would add approximately two thousand new beds, increasing the total number of beds on campus to over 4,000. Trustee Cavazos moved approval of the contract. Trustee Dubose seconded the motion, and it was approved with a unanimous vote.

The second action was the consideration of the acquisition of video boards for the Al Lawson Center and Gaither Gymnasium. The project is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 2023. Trustee Cavazos offered a motion for approval. Trustee Dubose seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Next, the Board was asked to approve spending authority for the Bragg Memorial Stadium parking lot. VP Brown recalled that the Board had approved the president entering a contract for improvements to the parking lot which include resurfacing, onsite draining, curbing striping, and numbering. Trustee Cavazos offered a motion to approve the spending authority. Trustee Dubose seconded the motion, and it was approved with a unanimous vote.

The last action item was the approval of the Banking Resolution. Attorney David Self read the resolution which provided that the authorized signatories for university checks are University President Dr. Larry Robinson, VP/Chief Financial Officer Mrs. W. Rebecca Brown, and Interim Assistant Vice President Mrs. Mattie Hood. It also provided that the checks must be signed by President Robinson and at least one other authorized signatory. Trustee Cavazos moved approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dubose, and it was approved unanimously.

CFO Brown stated that the University seeks to purchase a property located at 614 Eugenia Street, with an asking price of \$250,000. The 1236 sq. ft. building will be used to house the University's food pantry, which supports FAMU's students. She said she would bring additional information to the Board during the June meeting.

Lastly, VP Brown stated that the Bragg Stadium Videoboard continues to progress, with a completion date of August 28, 2023. She said there are no anticipated delays.

ADJOURNMENT:

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