

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

**Athletics Committee Minutes**  
**Kelvin Lawson, Chair**  
**June 7, 2023**

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. The Executive Assistant to the VP/AD Marquel Broussard called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Otis Cliatt, Trustee Deveron Gibbons, Trustee Londe Mondelus and Chair Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the February 15, 2023, minutes. Trustee Gibbons moved approval of the minutes, Trustee Mondelus provided the second, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Joe Maleszewski gave a precursor to the Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A., Consulting Report lead by Mr. Jeff Barbacci, Managing Shareholder and CPA, who could not be present and Mr. Taylor Harmon who provided the brief out on the work. Mr. Harmon gave a brief summary of the consulting report prepared by THF on FAMU Athletics Action Plan as well as recommendations to improve the plan. He also made mention that the plan was comprehensive and thorough and if properly implemented, will result in better outcomes.

Michael Smith, AVP for Athletics Administration and Strategic Initiatives gave a high-level review of the fiscal year 2023 Athletics budget. Mr. Smith started out by sharing that we are projecting a positive fund balance by the end of the fiscal year. The numbers in the athletics budget continue to trend in the right direction as athletics anticipate a balanced budget for the fifth year in a row.

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AD Sykes provided department updates beginning with new hires, Antonio Carter (Football Wide Receivers Coach), Breon Hagans (Senior Associate AD for External Relations), and Marcus Grant (Deputy AD for Internal Operations). She stated that we've seen an increase in participants since the restructuring of packages and prices with investing in champions packages and anticipate a large increase in revenue over last year based on current sales. The department exceeded their goal of 100 individual donors by over 100% in this year's 1887 Strikes campaign. AD Sykes shared that the NCAA was invited to campus for 2 days where they spent time evaluating processes and documents and educating all stakeholders on best practices and eligibility certification. She highlighted that 3 teams were announced by the NCAA for having perfect single year APR scores. The teams are Cross Country, Golf and Volleyball which all earned a perfect 1,000 APR score. AD Sykes went on to share that the department hosted a preliminary eligibility certification one day after grades posted. The 4-day process included compliance, athletics academics, campus advisors, registrar and many other stakeholders to review eligibility statuses of all student athletes and meetings with head coaches to discuss eligibility deficiencies. Student athletes also received individual communication from compliance notifying them of their deficiencies and what is needed to rectify before the fall term.

She highlighted spring sports on earning SWAC honors. Track & Field had student athletes in indoor and outdoor to earn championship honors and two to qualify for NCAA Regionals. The Tennis team completed an undefeated season and was named regular season SWAC Champions. They went on to win the 2023 SWAC Tournament and qualified for the NCAA Tournament. This was the first NCAA post season appearance for our tennis program in school history. Head coach Nikki Houston was named SWAC Coach of the year along with Sara Rakim, SWAC player of the year and Genesis Whitelock Freshmen of the year.

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The Baseball team entered the SWAC tournament as the number 3 seed and went on to win the 2023 SWAC Tournament and qualified for the NCAA Tournament. Ty Hanchey was named to the NCAA all-tournament team and is the only player in school history to earn that honor.

AD Sykes shared photos of student-athletes enjoying themselves at the National Student-Athlete Day celebration sponsored by the National Rattler F Club, the Rattler Boosters, and the 220 QB Club. This was the first year that national student athlete day was hosted on FAMUs campus to celebrate student athletes and give them a break from their day to day. She also shared photos of our Student-Athletes being honored at our Fang Awards ceremony. She went on to highlight that the department graduated 47 Student-athletes this Spring whom were celebrated at a student-athlete graduation reception put on by the National Rattler F Club.

AD Sykes expressed her joyfulness for being able to celebrate the 1978 SIAC Men's Basketball Championship team during their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and how she look forward to hosting more alumni teams on campus and celebrating their accomplishments.

In closing, she recognized two former athletes who are our newest professional rattlers. Xavier Smith and Isaiah Land both have signed free agent contracts with NFL teams. Smith is in California with the LA Rams and Land is in Texas with the Dallas Cowboys.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.