Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Board of Trustees

FAMU DRS Special Committee Meeting
Chair Brown
Thursday, August 27, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Committee Minutes

Committee Members and Participants: Jamal Brown, Chair; Tiffany Ardley; Benny Bolden; Monesia Brown; Isis Dukes; Roderick Harris; William Hudson, Jr.; Roddrick Jones; AlTony Lee; Joseph Maleszewski; Sylvester Peck; Brandi Tatum-Fedrick; Roger Walker; and Courtney Wright

Chair Brown called the meeting to order following roll call. The meeting was informational and discussion-focused; no action items were scheduled for a vote. Chair Brown stated that the Committee would review the KPMG Phase I Risk Discovery Report update, staffing and credentialing, the College of Education partnership, School Advisory Board and School Advisory Council matters, and draft recommendations for FAMU DRS.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

KPMG Phase I Risk Discovery Report Update – Chair Brown recognized Vice President Maleszewski to provide an update on the KPMG work and related corrective actions.

VP Maleszewski reported that the KPMG engagement had moved from reporting to corrective action. FAMU DRS had drafted a corrective action plan responsive to the report, which had been reviewed through the Dean and Provost and was pending further consideration. He noted that effective corrective action would require participation from University functions whose responsibilities intersect with DRS, including Emergency Management, Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities, the Controller's Office, Policy, Compliance, Human Resources, Procurement, and other areas.

VP Maleszewski highlighted three additional governance and oversight considerations:

1. Establish an annual financial audit and periodic operational audit cadence for FAMU DRS, with operational coverage capable of addressing areas such as facilities, safety, emergency management, policy, and other institutional functions;
2. Establish a routine management assessment cadence for University offices with responsibilities affecting DRS; and
3. Develop a unified corrective action plan that consolidates the DRS response, Special Committee recommendations, responsible parties, target dates, monitoring, and Board-level reporting.

VP Maleszewski also noted that Emergency Management and the Controller's Office had already begun working with DRS, including assistance with emergency/continuity planning and cash collection controls.

Staffing and Credentialing Update – Chair Brown presented a high-level review of teacher and administrator credentialing. He noted that approximately one-third of DRS faculty held Florida professional teaching certificates, while other faculty held temporary or district credentials. The discussion addressed the effect of professional certification on subject-area assignments, specialized course offerings, dual enrollment, and the ability to supervise College of Education interns.

Dr. Bolden explained Florida teacher certification pathways and the educational leadership and school principal credentialing commonly required for school administrators. Trustee Harris asked that progress toward professional certification be incorporated into performance expectations and the proposed KPI dashboard. Dr. Ardley asked whether FAMU could assist DRS teachers in obtaining credentials. Chair Brown indicated that the draft recommendations contemplate College of Education support for DRS faculty seeking professional certification.

College of Education Internship and DRS Partnership Update – Chair Brown discussed opportunities to strengthen the relationship between DRS and the College of Education, including expanded internships, credentialing support, academic assistance, and strategic programming aligned with DRS performance needs. Existing math and reading support activities were noted, along with opportunities to expand participation and better measure the partnership.

School Advisory Board and School Advisory Council Update – Chair Brown emphasized that the Special Committee is temporary and that ongoing DRS governance responsibilities reside with established oversight bodies, including the School Advisory Board and School Advisory Council. He noted the need for both bodies to understand the KPMG report, their respective responsibilities, and the status of corrective actions. New School Advisory Board members had been identified, with onboarding identified as a next step.

The Committee discussed strengthening the connection between the School Advisory Board, School Advisory Council, Board of Trustees, and other oversight entities. VP Maleszewski noted that the Board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee has standing oversight responsibility related to DRS and suggested consideration of a committee charter that more explicitly addresses DRS oversight and reporting cadence. Monesia Brown recommended that the governance framework also recognizes State Board of Education oversight and related reporting requirements. The discussion further identified accreditation requirements as another external governance consideration.

Draft Special Committee Recommendations – Chair Brown reviewed the developing recommendations and solicited Committee feedback. The recommendations discussed included:

- Evaluate the feasibility, costs, timing, and implications of a charter lab school model for FAMU DRS;
- Establish a comprehensive DRS governance and delegation framework that clearly defines authority, accountability, reporting relationships, and process ownership;

- Restore and strengthen the School Advisory Board and School Advisory Council, including statutory membership alignment, onboarding, governance training, and fulfillment of required duties;
- Establish regular DRS reporting to the Board of Trustees through the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, including biannual reporting tied to established KPIs, and strengthen the Board-level governance framework for DRS oversight;
- Establish a comprehensive policy and internal-control framework, including annual review, approval authority, version history, publication, staff training, and evidence of compliance;
- Establish clear organizational accountability through accurate organizational charts, updated job descriptions, workload alignment, designated process owners, escalation pathways, succession planning, and cross-training;
- Require stronger financial transparency and controls over budgeting, budget-to-actual results, variances, cash handling, grants, procurement, and authorized system access;
- Expand appropriate use of technology and online collection methods to reduce cash handling and support controlled fundraising and other DRS transactions;
- Establish a comprehensive facilities, safety, environmental health, and emergency preparedness framework with clearly assigned University and DRS owners, documented plans, periodic assessments, and a defined review cadence;
- Require DRS teaching faculty to progress toward Florida Professional Teaching Certification, supported by the College of Education. Committee discussion favored allowing sufficient time for coursework and examinations, with approximately 24 months discussed as more practical than the initially suggested 18 months;
- Establish appropriate Florida educational leadership and school principal credentialing expectations for DRS administrators with school oversight responsibilities; and
- Develop a shared KPI dashboard for the School Advisory Board, School Advisory Council, University leadership, and Board of Trustees addressing academic achievement, learning gains, graduation outcomes, transition to FAMU, associate degree attainment, middle/high school acceleration, college and career readiness, attendance, discipline, faculty credentialing, and College of Education alignment.

Committee members emphasized that the governance framework should also account for State Board of Education requirements, accreditation expectations, and other external oversight responsibilities so that reporting obligations are coordinated and potential compliance issues are identified before they become surprises.

Next Steps – Chair Brown reiterated that no action items were voted on during the meeting. He stated that the recommendations were approximately 80–90 percent complete and that one additional meeting would be scheduled to finalize the language and vote on the recommendations before presentation to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lee noted the need to schedule the meeting promptly to comply with the Board's meeting-materials protocol. Ms. Taylor indicated she would seek to schedule the follow-up meeting for September 3, 2026.

There being no further business, Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.