FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Special Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Board Meeting opened with Chair Deveron Gibbons welcoming all attendees. A quorum was confirmed with the presence of Trustees Brown, Gainey, Gibbons, Harris, Jones, Vazquez, White, Williams, and Young. Trustee Crossman joined later in the session, and Trustee Shah was excused due to court-related obligations.

Before proceeding to public comments, Chair Gibbons asked that any questions be addressed at the outset to ensure an efficient and orderly progression through the agenda.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comments.

Amendment to the Tuition Reimbursement Policy and Mitchell Titus Contract Extension

Interim CFO Richard Schweigert introduced himself and presented the first agenda item regarding clarification of the tuition reimbursement policy. He explained that revisions made last year created uncertainty for staff already enrolled in degree programs at other institutions and dependent on tuition reimbursement. To address this, a grandfather clause was added to ensure continued reimbursement through the completion of their degrees.

Interim CFO Schweigert and Controller Shajuana Jenkins then presented a request for a $894,000 contract extension with Mitchell Titus through June 2027. The extension would provide supplemental support in light of nine current vacancies and two major implementation projects—Workday and the university financial statement—both due in October. Ms. Jenkins noted that the extension would sustain fiscal year 2026 audit work and other financial operations while the department continues its hiring efforts.

Trustee Kenneth Jones requested a future summary outlining staff turnover reasons and retention strategies to support transitioning this work in-house over time. President Johnson agreed to provide, or designate staff to provide, the requested report. She also highlighted recent investments in departmental capacity, including the hiring of Ms. Jenkins and three CPAs, and described the strategy of utilizing consultants while stabilizing processes and implementing Workday, with the goal of bringing on highly skilled permanent staff. Chair Gibbons asked the Interim CFO and Controller to remain within the budget requested for the contract extension.

Trustee White moved approval of both the amendment to the tuition reimbursement policy and the Mitchell Titus contract extension, with a second from Trustee Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Performance-based Funding Metric 10: BOT Choice Metric

Associate Provost Reginald Perry presented the recommendation to revise the University's performance-based funding metric 10, the Board of Trustees Choice metric. He explained that the Board of Governors has given institutions an opportunity to reconsider their selected metric and recommended shifting from undergraduate

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internship participation to total research expenditures. He noted that this change aligns with the University's pursuit of R1 status and reflects the continued growth of its research enterprise.
President Johnson emphasized that internships remain a core priority and will continue to be embedded in the strategic plan, while the recommended metric appropriately centers on research performance for funding purposes.

Trustee Gainey moved approval of the change to FAMU's performance-based funding metric 10, updating the BOT choice metric from undergraduate internship participation to total research expenditures. Trustees Williams and Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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