

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

**Athletics Committee Minutes**  
**Kelvin Lawson, Chair**  
**December 7, 2022**

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. The BOT Coordinator Mrs. Kimberly Taylor called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Ann Marie Cavazos, Trustee Otis Cliatt, and Chair Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve the October 5, 2022, minutes. Trustee Cavazos moved approval of the minutes, Trustee Cliatt provided the second, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Vice President Wallace was recognized to present the new athletic director's employment contract for approval. She explained that the three-year contract was the product of negotiations between President Robinson and the incoming athletic director Tiffani-Dawn Sykes. Trustee Cliatt recommended that they add language in Section K to include a bonus for making the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) playoffs. VP Wallace indicated that she would do so with Ms. Sykes' approval. Trustee Cavazos moved approval of the contract. VP Wallace asked that the motion for acceptance be contingent upon finding out the NCAA figures from the incoming athletic director. Chair Lawson clarified that the motion included that contingency. Trustee Cliatt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Michael Smith, interim athletic director recognized Coach Gokhan Yilmaz, and Coach Steve Canfield, FAMU's volleyball coaches. He shared that the team is the two-time defending Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) champion. Student athlete Dominique Washington earned SWAC "Player of the Year." The Coaches Association also recognized her as an "All-American Honorable Mention."

Next, FAMU football coaches Willie Simmons, Billy Rolle, and John Spady were recognized, along with players Xavier Smith and Isiah Land. AD Smith highlighted that the team won nine (9) games in a row, which was the sixth-longest winning streak in the nation. They also had fifteen (15) straight

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wins at Bragg Stadium, the second-longest in the nation. Twelve players were named to the All-SWAC team. Coach Simmons shared that Xavier Smith is the second-leading receiver in the program's history and that Isiah Land received the Buck Buchanan Award for being the nation's best offensive player.

President Robinson provided an update on the Athletics Action Plan. He announced that Chief Operating Officer Maurice Edington is charged with the primary responsibility of managing the plan and ensuring that it is completed in a timely manner. The COO is supported by AD Smith, Chief Compliance Officer Rica Calhoun, Deidre Melton, Audit/Enterprise Risk Manager, and Dr. Kelly McMurray, who is responsible for data and information. They meet weekly to discuss the plan. COO Edington shared that there are owners of the strategies in the plan, with the responsibility for looking at how they are doing at a very high level and working with the teams. He said this structure gives the plan the appropriate level of attention it deserves. COO Edington provided the monthly update in the Board's pre-read material posted on the Board's website. He explained that when the report indicates that something is on-track, it means that action steps are in-sync with the timeline,

An Athletic Support Group was also created. VP Friday-Stroud chairs the group, which meets bi-weekly and deals with broader issues that support Athletics outside of the Action Plan. There is also a Metrics Team that meets weekly to develop key performance indicators and dashboards.

COO Edington also shared that the University plans to develop a band action plan, which will speak to its key issues.

Nichole Murray, University Budget Director, shared that the numbers in the Athletics budget are trending in the right direction. She shared that this is the fourth year that Athletics has had a balanced budget.

AD Smith provided departmental updates. He stated that the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is going well. The group is made up of all fourteen sports and deals with matters associated with the wellness of their experience on campus. The Department also instituted the "Student Internship/Mentor Program. Thirty-nine (39) students volunteered in all areas of athletics,

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including game readiness. AD Smith also shared that twenty-two athletes are slated to graduate during the fall commencement. In closing, the Board expressed their appreciation to AD Smith for all that he has done for the athletics programs at FAMU.

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