

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Kristin Harper, Chair*

Chair Harper called the meeting to order. Trustees Brown, Cliatt, Figgers, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, Mondelus, Perry, Reed, Washington, and White established a quorum. Trustees Crossman and Stone did not join the meeting due to prior commitments.

Chair Harper recognized former trustees Ann Marie Cavazos and Michael Dubose for their service to the University. She read the plaques into the record:

Anne Marie Cavazos, JD, Professor of law, FAMU College of Law, in recognition of your dedicated and outstanding service to Florida, A&M University as Faculty Senate, president and member of the Board of Trustees, from 2019 to 2023, presented the seventh day of December 2023, and signed by President Larry Robinson.

Michael Dubose, president of Fisher Healthcare Thermo-Fisher, Scientific, in recognition of your dedicated and outstanding service to Florida A&M University as a member of the Board of Trustees from December 11, 2020 to June 21, 2023, presented this seventh day of December 2023, and signed by President Larry Robinson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no requests for public comments.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robinson stated that he would focus on the institutional goals and key performance indicators during his report. He said that the University's achievements would not be possible without its dedicated faculty, staff, and students. The University is in year two of its 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, "*Boldly Striking*." The University aspires to become a leader among the State University System, remain a top one hundred national public university, reach the top ten in social mobility, and attain Carnegie Research One institution status.

Regarding President Robinson's annual goals, he shared the progress made on several goals thus far:

Goal 1: Ninety percent of first-time in college students, full-time students returned for their second year and the student retention rate increased by one percent. The

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four-year and six-year graduation rates are on the rise, with the six-year rate increasing from 52% to 58.4%..

Goal 3: The annual giving rate is 12.5M to date.

Goal 4: The University research expenditures so far reached \$13M, which is 66% of the goal. Faculty and staff have submitted proposals totaling \$135M.

Goal5: Dr. Donald Palm, chief operating officer and executive vice president, is leading the team now to make sure that the *Service Excellence Initiative* is implemented. He regularly convenes focus group meetings with key staff from across the institution to discuss and improve efficiency of service processes at the university. President Robinson shared that the Performance Funding Metrics align with success measures in the University's strategic plan. He pointed out that the University will continue to focus on ensuring that students find the best paying jobs. He said that the median wages of graduates increased, and this is important because the Board of Governors has raised that number in its metrics.

President Robinson highlighted that engineering students Solomon Andrews and JohnPaul Adimonyemma are the newest recipients of the Ted Rogers Intuitive Scholars and Fellowship Program Award. Sarah Redding, a third-year law student received the Rattlers for Justice Scholarship. Political science senior Elijah Hooks was selected as the executive director/chief of staff for the Florida Student Association.

*President Robinson shared a video that highlighted University accomplishments and events.*

In closing, President Robinson reminded the Board that Fall Commencement is 6:00 p.m., Friday, December 15, 2023. He also stated that he was headed to Atlanta after commencement to support the Rattler football team as it vies for the national HBCU championship in the Celebration Bowl.

### **FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

*Trustee Jamal Brown, Faculty Senate President*

Trustee Brown acknowledged the Office of the Provost for conducting a series of workshops for faculty regarding post-tenure review. The State University System Faculty Senate Presidents met and discussed challenges they were experiencing at their respective universities. During the Trustee Summit, the trustees had an opportunity to interact with the Board of Governors. They discussed diversity and inclusion and the need for guidance regarding the submission of grant proposals.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Committee Chair*

The Academic and Student Affairs committee recommended approval of a request for a leave of absence for Professor Andrew Jones, the Institute's and Center's annual report, and the request to

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reduce degree program hours for Journalism and Public Relations. The Committee also heard updates on enrollment, housing, financial aid, veteran’s affairs, hazing prevention, academic advising, and the College of Law’s Action plan.

**Audit and Compliance Committee**

*Michael White, Committee Chair*

The Committee met and recommended approval of the Division of Audit’s Annual Work Plan updates and updates to University Regulation 2.034 - Name, Image, and likeness.

**Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee**

*Trustee Craig Reed, Committee Chair*

The Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee recommended the approval of a \$1.25M budget amendment for athletics. The Committee also hosted a budget workshop overview and shared an update on the compensation study. Items identified for follow-up actions include: to determine a specific amount allocated for current and new faculty for recruitment and retention from State appropriation funds, determine the average revenue of tuition collection per student and track uncollected revenue related to fee waivers.

**Direct Support Organizations/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee**

*Trustee Deveron Gibbons, Committee Chair*

The Committee recommended approval of four new members of the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors and the honorary naming of the *Julian “Cannonball” Adderley and Nat Adderley Music Institute*. The Committee heard several information items: University Advancement, which has raised over \$13.2M for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and FAMU Foundation Board chair, Lisa Laboo and FAMU National Association President Curtis Johnson, Jr. provided their respective updates. Vice President and Athletic Director Tiffani-Dawn Sykes provided an update on the Athletics Action Plan and an update on the athletics budget. The committee discussed next steps which include a philosophy of philanthropy for the Board of Trustees and the development of an efficient operating model for the entire athletic enterprise.

**Governance Committee**

*Trustee Craig Reed, Committee Vice Chair*

The Governance Committee recommended approval of amendments to the BOT Operating Procedures. The changes updated the Procedures to reflect the new Direct Support Procedures/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee as a standing committee and technical changes. The Committee also received an update regarding the University’s legislative engagement strategy and the role of trustees.

The next steps for the Committee include:

- providing a Who’s Who roster to trustees,
- developing a more detailed session calendar,

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- reviewing resources for government relations, including staffing, and
- considering an earlier date for the Board’s Legislative Budget Request workshop.

**Strategic Planning/Performance Measures Committee**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Committee Chair*

The Committee heard an update on key trends and feedback leading to the 2022 - 2027 Strategic Plan. They were also given an overview of the strategic plan and the intersection of the accountability plan, strategic plan, and president's goals. The Committee shared information on civil discourse and explained FAMU's commitment to maintaining a campus environment that supports and promotes open minded and tolerant civil discourse.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Board of Trustees Minutes (BT)
  - BT1      October 12, 2023
  
- B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)
  - ASA1      Leaves of Absence Andrew Jones
  - ASA2      Institutes and Centers Annual Report
  - ASA3      Degree Program Hours Reduction
    - Journalism
    - Public Relations
  
- C. Audit and Compliance Committee (AACC)
  - AACC1    Division of Audit Workplan Updates
  - AACC2    University Regulation 2.034, Intercollegiate Athletes – Name, Image, and Likeness
  
- D. Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)
  - BFF1      Budget Amendment for Athletics
  
- E. Direct Support Organizations and Athletics Committee (DSOIA)
  - DSO1      FAMU Foundation Members
  - ~~DSO2      Honorary Naming of the Julian “Cannonball” Adderley and Nat Adderley Music Institute~~
  
- F. Governance Committee (GC)
  - GC1      Operating Procedures Amendment

Chair Harper reviewed the Consent Agenda with the Board. She then removed DSOIA2 – the Honorary naming of the *Julian Cannonball” Adderly and Nat Adderly Music Institute* from the Consent Agenda, as it would be voted on separately. Trustee Lawson moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Gibbons seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

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Chair Harper asked for a motion to approve the naming of *Julian “Cannonball” Adderley and Nat Adderley Music Institute*. Trustee Perry moved approval. Trustee Lawson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Attorney Kentavia Coates provided instructions regarding the closed-session for collective bargaining and Joseph Maleszewski provided instructions for the closed-session on cyber security. The Board then moved into its closed sessions. The closed sessions concluded, and the Board proceeded with its open session.

Trustee Lawson moved that the Board authorize the President to enter into multi-year agreements with Data Set Ready, Presidio, and Signal House, not to exceed \$25M over the next three years. These vendors will provide IT related services. Trustee Perry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Next, Trustee Gibbons moved that the Board ratify the FAMU BOT and PBA tentative agreement of Article 7, 15, and 33, including agreement to Article 23 through MOU that collectively represents the full book of the 2023 - 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the FAMU Board of Trustees and the PBA, and authorized the President to sign an agreement on behalf of the Board, as the public employer. Trustee Reed seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

*Trustee Lundy Mondelus, SGA President*

Trustee Mondelus highlighted the campus safety initiative, Resolution 6, which provides transportation to students from the library during the late night hours. The SGA is working with FAMU Police Department to bring back this initiative. The SGA also passed a bill that requires job audits for agencies funded by them to ensure that they are accountable. The Executive Branch has hosted two wellness events, three professional development events and two academic events and they spearheaded four volunteer-based and community-based events this semester.

The SGA is planning the State of the Black Student Summit, March 18-21, 2024. Their goal is to raise \$150K to pay for speakers, fee travel, and lodging.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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