

## Athletics Committee Minutes Deveron Gibbons, Chair June 11, 2025

Chair Gibbons called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Kristin Harper, Trustee Craig Reed, Trustee Deveron Gibbons.

Chair Gibbons, deferred the Athletics update to Deputy Athletic Director Travis Glasgow. He noted that he has been with the department for a month and a half and emphasized the importance of addressing concerns identified in the recent audit. He outlined four key points to guide improvements, beginning with people.

The finance department currently consists of one staff member. The new budget includes the addition of two coordinators and a Director of Finance to strengthen financial operations. Mr. Glasgow stated that this will allow the department to regain control and ensure timely reporting.

Training for new hires will be ongoing, utilizing monthly university training programs to ensure familiarity with finance policies. Additionally, staff will engage with the College Athletic Business Management Association (CABMA) within NACDA to adopt best practices.

Mr.Glasgow emphasized the need for regular policy reviews and monthly internal self-audits to maintain compliance and ensure high performance standards.

A new budgeting approach is being implemented to increase administrative oversight. Teams will receive the resources necessary to operate, but key areas like travel and event operations will be tightly controlled by administration to ensure expenditures are approved before they occur.

Preliminary budget meetings with teams have taken place, focusing on right-sizing budgets and prioritizing essential needs over discretionary spending.



Deputy Glasgow stressed the importance of securing in-state game contracts to retain revenue within Florida.

Trustee Perry voiced concerns about avoiding "body bag games," which jeopardize athlete health and competitiveness. He suggested focused on maximizing classics like the Orange Blossom Classic, with a goal to move toward FAMU owning the event similar to the Florida Classic model. President Beard confirmed that the current OBC contract has FAMU on a positive trajectory.

Chair Gibbons emphasized that contract games not only focus on football but also on sports where financial gain can be made without significant health risks to student-athletes such as baseball and basketball.

Deputy Glasgow transitioned to discuss the importance of establishing an athletics complex funded by the state to consolidate facilities, expand stadium seating, and generate new revenue streams. He highlighted opportunities to renegotiate beverage contracts, explore sponsorships, and sell naming rights to fields, stadium gates, and other areas. These measures would create sustainable revenue while enhancing the overall student-athlete experience. Recent policy changes in Florida now allow for the use of auxiliary dollars to financially support athletics, opening new funding pathways.

Trustee Harper acknowledged the previous turnover in leadership and thanked the board for the opportunity to lead the committee. She emphasized the need for a sustainable operating model that supports both athletic and academic success.

Trustees commended VP/AD Suggs and the athletics team for achieving a balanced budget for the seventh consecutive year. Additional remarks emphasized maximizing all available assets, expanding revenue sources, and ensuring equitable support across all athletic programs.

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