

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

Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee Meeting
Trustee Craig Reed, Committee Chair
Wednesday, June 11, 2025 Location: FAMU Grand Ballroom

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Jamal Brown, Zayla Bryant, Emery Gainey, Craig Reed, and Nicole Washington

Call to Order/Roll Call

Trustee Reed called the meeting to order. Ms. Schloss called the roll. A quorum was present.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2025 Committee Meeting

There were no revisions to the minutes.

The motion to approve this action item was carried.

Approval of the 2025-2026 Operating Budget

Budget Director Nichole Murry requested board approval of the 2025-2026 Operating Budget

Questions/Comments re: 2025-2026 Operating Budget

- Trustee Washington asked if this budget reflects the impact of the changes on the Federal level.
Response: Mrs. Murry responded, the budget reflects a reduction in contracts and grants (\$100 million to \$96 million) due to uncertainty in federal funding.

Questions/Comments re: 2025-2026 Operating Budget

- Trustee Washington's follow-up question asked how the university is making sure people know about the changes and how they may be impacted.

Response: Interim President Beard ensured that communication to impacted personnel would be forthcoming after the state legislative budget allocation.

Questions/Comments re: 2025-2026 Operating Budget

- Trustee Lawson raised concerns about the university's days cash on hand, auxiliary accounts, and the Black Male Explorers Program.

Response: Mrs. Murry clarified that this operating budget does not address the days cash on hand issue, which will be handled separately. While auxiliary revenue is increasing, so are expenditures due to inflation and construction costs. Housing continues to grow, whereas other auxiliary units remain stable. Funding for the Black Male Explorers Program will be incorporated once the General Appropriations Act is finalized.

Questions/Comments re: 2025-2026 Operating Budget

- Trustee Brown asked about alumni giving, corporate donations, and state funding.

Response: Mrs. Murry explained that these sources are part of the Foundation budget, not the university's operating budget.

Questions/Comments re: 2025-2026 Operating Budget

- Trustee Brown also inquired about how the Compensation Study is factored into the proposed budget.

Response: Budget Director Murry noted that the impact on salaries will be addressed in August with updates, and the current budget reflects the status quo.

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Questions/Comments re: 2025-2026 Operating Budget

- Chair Harper asked questions regarding Financial Aid and the President-elect's contract.

Response: Budget Director Murry explained the \$54.9 million budget is a pass-through, and changes in federal funding (e.g., Pell Grants) will directly affect student awards. Foundation scholarships are included in this figure. She clarified that the operating budget does not include uncapped expenses (e.g., housing renovations) beyond what is covered by Foundation support.

The motion to approve this action item was carried.

Approval of the 2026-2027 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Associate Vice President, Kendall Jones, requested board approval of the 2026-2027 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Questions/Comments re: 2026-2027 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- Trustee Brown inquired about the structural/building needs for FAMU DRS.

Response: AVP Jones replied that DRS Facility needs are conducted by DRS and has its own educational plant survey, separate from the university-wide process. Structural needs assessments are conducted, and PECO funds are used for improvements. This process occurs every five years.

Questions/Comments re: 2026-2027 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- Trustee Brown asked about updates on the STEM Lab.

Response: Provost Watson provided an update on the STEM Lab, noting that the existing media center is being renovated to house a STEM lab, which will include both a robotics lab and an aviation lab.

Questions/Comments re: 2026-2027 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Interim President Beard commented that he was quite impressed with the aviation program during his visits to DRS. He stated that DRS started the Pilot Academy and could be pervasive throughout the county.

Questions/Comments re: 2026-2027 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- Trustee Washington asked for a description of the process for project prioritization.

Response: AVP Jones explained projects are prioritized based on the Educational Plan Survey, the campus master plan, and Senior Leadership input. The university is overbuilt in many categories (over 100% of space needed according to the State formula), requiring resulting in a focus on funding requests for renovation projects. Reclassifying the overbuilt spaces is done on a case-by-case basis by approaching the state and having conversations.

The motion to approve this action item was carried.

Approval of Accounts Receivables Write-offs

Assistant Vice President, Mattie Hood, requested board approval of Accounts Receivables Write-offs.

Questions/Comments re: Accounts Receivables Write-offs

Trustee Reed commented that there has been a significant improvement in this area over previous years. He mentioned that VP Brown and others have made internal changes within the university to ensure appropriate management of the various items.

The motion to approve this action item was carried.

Approval of Accounts of Surplus Property Write-offs

AVP Mattie Hood requested board approval of Accounts Surplus Write-offs.

Questions/Comments re: Accounts of Surplus Property Write-offs

- Trustee Washington asked what the new protocol was for securing the items that were stolen.

Response: AVP Hood responded that new security protocols are in place, including relocating golf carts to a secure location and requiring senior leadership approval before purchasing vehicles. Trustee Perry suggested using GPS trackers for added security.

The motion to approve this action item was carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Vice President for Finance and Administration’s Report

- a. Quarterly Financial Report- Budget to Actuals
- b. Project Updates
- c. Compensation Study Update

a. Quarterly Financial Report- Budget to Actuals

Budget Director Nichole Murry provided an update on the budget to actuals as of May 23, 2025, 80% of the budget has been expended. Mrs. Murry explained the variances with a plus or minus 10% change. The first variance for discussion was E&G. She explained the 27% increase due to improved bill processing. The second category is Tech Fees, which has decreased by 16% due to the timing of invoice submission. The third category had an 11% decrease in Student Activities due to timing.

b. Project Updates

AVP Jones provided updates on various projects including Venom Landing (700 bed residence hall), 500/800 bed Residence Hall (funding still pending), Dining Hub expansion (slightly behind schedule due to steel delays), Foote-Hilyer IT relocation (completed), Howard Hall Renovation, Chemical and Biological Research Center Renovation, and Deferred Maintenance/Utility Infrastructure projects. Contingency plans for the Dining Hub delays were discussed.

Questions/Comments re: Project Updates

Trustee Brown inquired about the justification for the number of parking spaces relative to students, buildings, dorms, faculty, and staff. He raised concerns about parking access.

Response: AVP Jones explained that he couldn’t provide him with an answer at the present time, and he would provide feedback as a follow-up.

Questions/Comments re: Project Updates

Trustee Brown wanted to know about parking consistency in comparison to our sister schools, as well as parking availability for our vendors.

VP Hudson provided an overview of how many parking spaces are determined on campus.

Questions/Comments re: Project Updates

Trustee Lawson inquired about the need for a third dining facility or expanding the existing facilities with the increase of on-campus beds. He suggested that dining needs to be included in future funding models. He also asked about the food service contract expiration date.

Response: AVP Jones responded that our 800 and 500-bed Projects will have mixed-use space that can be used as a café. Associate VP Michael Smith provided Trustee Lawson with the food service contract expiration date of June 2026.

c. Compensation Study

Interim President Beard previously provided a Statement of Work (SOW) outlining the market assessment process for both the SUS and FAMU DRS, with an estimated cost of \$100,000. He recommended proceeding with Phase One of the study, which remains on track for implementation in Fall 2025. An ad hoc committee was suggested by the faculty and administration to work with the results for phase two. Dr. Beard spoke about including funds from the first phase in the state budget amendment.

Questions/Comments re: Compensation Study

Trustee Brown asked for clarification on the current status and transparency of the compensation study. She expressed concern that faculty and staff were excluded from the process and questioned whether the comparison schools were appropriate peers. She also asked why the university was not moving forward with paying the \$100,000 for the SOW.

Response: Interim President Beard responded that the study isn't complete and ongoing, and the SOW can be done in-house.

Questions/Comments re: Compensation Study

Trustee Gibbons requested a comprehensive breakdown of the process and recommendations.

Questions/Comments re: Compensation Study

Trustee Washington shared the importance of having accurate numbers to advocate effectively in the legislative session.

Questions/Comments re: Compensation Study

Trustee Figgers commented on the prolonged delay of the compensation study, noting that competitive faculty and staff compensation must be a top priority.

Questions/Comments re: Compensation Study

Chair Harper highlighted the importance of timing and accurate data to support advocacy efforts.

Questions/Comments re: Compensation Study

Trustee Perry requested that any available compensation data be provided to the Board at the August Retreat, rather than shortly before the September meeting. He expressed concern that receiving it too late could raise additional questions and delay decision-making.

Interim President Beard will provide comprehensive salary comparison data to the board at the August retreat. The data will include information from other universities within the SUS.

Stimulus Funding Expenditure Report to Date

Dr. Akins presented an update on expenditures of stimulus funds. He reported that \$32,000 remains, with \$15,884 allocated to student debt reduction. Three audits (Internal, State, and the Department of Education) were completed with no findings. The university is no longer required to submit annual performance reports, but must continue to report quarterly. Funding will end June 30, 2025. There was a discrepancy noted between the G5 system and iRattler systems regarding remaining balances. The remaining balance is \$151,852.34 within the G5 system. Trustee Washington

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requested an analysis of the impact of emergency aid on student graduation and retention rates, excluding the student names for privacy.

The meeting adjourned.