

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 2, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll. The following trustees were present establishing a quorum: Bell, Cavazos, Cliatt, Dortch, Harper, Lawson, Moore, Perry, Reed, Stone, and Washington.

Chair Lawson officially welcomed the new Student Government Association president Zachary Bell. Next, he asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence honoring the following individual(s):

- Ms. Laura Branker – former member of the FAMU Board of Trustees and Florida A&M University alumna
- Victims of the Buffalo, New York mass shooting
- Victims of the Rob Elementary School mass shooting

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were provided by:

Dr. Shelby Chipman  
Commissioner Diane Williams Cox  
Mr. Jamal Gibson  
Ms. Yolanda Pickard  
Ms. Angelia Williams  
Mr. Curtis Johnson  
Dr. Shandale Terrell  
Dr. Carolyn Collins

**WELCOME**

Chair Lawson welcomed the FAMU National Alumni Association (NAA) to the meeting and asked Colonel Greg Clark, President of the FAMU National Alumni Association, to say a few words. He also extended a welcome to the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors. Jamal Gibson, Chair of the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors, addressed the Board.

**MMERI iHEART AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

GP Mendi, interim director of the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative and Dr. Charles Weatherford, Vice President for Research, requested Board action on an amendment to

the iHeart Contract. The revision of the current agreement is to purchase broadcast media services for the Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative (MMERI). He shared that section 381.986, Florida statutes, entrusted FAMU Division of Research with educating minorities about marijuana for medical use and the impact of the unlawful use of marijuana on minority communities.

MMERI completed a competitive solicitation through the Office of Procurement for media advertising for consulting services for a statewide education campaign. The contracts required the president's authorization and pre-approval by the FAMU Board of Trustees, as it exceeded \$1 million. Trustee Dortch moved approval of the execution of the contract to amend the iHeart media contract for the previous amount. The first year is \$3,406,864 for fiscal-year 2022-23 to provide media advertising and consulting services for the statewide education campaign, pending review by the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Procurement Services. Trustee Moore seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robinson started his report by thanking Dr. Kelly McMurray for compiling the information. He then congratulated Col. Clark for an outstanding tenure as President of the FAMU NAA and for his service to FAMU. President Robinson welcomed everyone to campus and thanked them for supporting FAMU.

President Robinson highlighted several achievements over the 2021-2022 year:

- Highest-ranked Public HBCU
- Ranked #13 on Top Performers in Social Mobility
- Ranked #104 Top Public Schools
- Ranked #27 on Best Value Colleges and Universities

He also shared that the COVID testing site had performed 632,524 tests and 75,000 vaccinations. The University received national recognition by being named an Adobe Creative Campus, hosting the Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.

President Robinson shared that the new strategic plan will help the University advance its reputation and rankings by increasing student participation in internships and research, elevating sustained student success, and fostering faculty excellence and vitality. FAMU Health will position FAMU as a national leader in healthcare, education, and research.

President Robinson shared that eight of the 11 metrics improved since last year. He shared a slide that showed the University's overall improvement since the implementation of the 2017-2022 strategic Plan. He said that 76% of the metrics increased since the inception of that plan.

President Robinson shared the following highlights:

- Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society inducted 74 new members this year.

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- College of Law student Michelle Wanamaker is the recipient of the prestigious Holland and Knight scholarship and internship.
- FAMU Doctor of Pharmacy graduates surpassed state and national examination averages, with 89.9% of the graduates passing the examination the first time.
- Dr. Joycelyn Spates, Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs in the College of Pharmacy, received a \$707,000 research grant from the US Food and Drug Administration.
- Provost Maurice Edington was elected the chair of the State University System Council of Academic Vice Presidents.

President Robinson announced that Dr. Gloria Walker would join the University on June 3, 2022, as the new chief financial officer and vice president for Financial Services. He also thanked Ms. Rebecca Brown for serving as interim CFO.

In closing, President Robinson emphasized that FAMU's impact continues to be seen near and far as it continues its ascension to the top 100.

*Note: A video update was presented.*

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Next, Chair Lawson recognized University Trustee and Student Government President Zachary Bell for his report. He noted that his vice president is Makira Burnes, a political science student from Orlando, FL. Their vision is that of serving Rattlers by any means necessary. He stated that he will implement plans and initiatives throughout the school year.

Trustee Bell stated that he is working hard to fill vacancies in his cabinet. The branches have already begun working on their plans of action. They plan to revamp the Student Government Association (SGA) website. He wants to establish relationships with all students and introduce them to SGA's purpose and activities. The SGA will start this during new student orientation.

Trustee Bell indicated that he issued a "Gun Violence Memorandum" condemning such violence. The memo encouraged every eligible member of our student body registered to vote and educate themselves on pertinent issues. He said he hoped to lead the HBCU campaign to end gun violence and to create tangible and real solutions.

### **FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Trustee Cavazos provided an update on the activities of the Faculty Senate. She and Dr. Eidahl will work on the Faculty Senate Bylaws and Faculty Handbook. Her Faculty Spotlight Series spotlighted several faculty members from the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences:

- Dr. Muhammad Haseeb secured \$620,000 in extramural funds for academic, research, and extension projects.

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- Dr. Lambert Kanga received the 2021 Integrated Pest Management “Bright Idea” Profession Award by Friends of Southern Integrated Pest management.
- Dr. Daniel Solis received a \$250K grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Dr. Michee Lachaud was awarded \$400K regarding a “Climate Change, Adaptation, and Welfare Implications: A Study of US Agriculture
- Over the last two years, the FAMU Viticulture Center released three plant patents and two new muscadine cultivars.
- Dr. Violeta Tsoleva and Research enologist Frank Humpries developed the first Digital Reference Database for Southern Wines with 112 entries.

The presentation ended with congratulatory remarks to the faculty and dean of the College of Agriculture and Food Science.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

*Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair*

Trustee Washington reported that the Committee recommended approval of tenure, new degrees with an MS and a Ph.D. in material science and engineering, and the revised BOT policies 2005-08, 2005-09, and 2014-01. The Committee also heard updates on recruitment ignite transfer and strategies to sustain success within the performance-based funding metrics.

**Audit and Compliance Committee**

*Trustee Craig Reed*

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Reed for the Committee’s report. He shared that the Committee recommended approval of an amendment to University Regulation 10.122, the 2022-2023 Audit Work Plan, updates to the BOT Policy 2019-01, and the ERM Risk Appetite Statement.

Rica Calhoun, Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer provided an update regarding Compliance Office activities. Finally, VP Maleszewski and Deidre Melton presented several informational items and an office update.

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee**

*Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair*

Trustee Moore shared that the Committee recommended approval of: an amendment to Regulation 3.017; a budget amendment for the Childcare Center; a budget amendment for Student Orientation; the Barnes and Nobles agreement; a contract amendment for CDW; the 2022-2023 Preliminary University Budget; the 2023-2024 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget; the Capital Improvement Plan; property write-offs; and a banking resolution.

The Committee also heard presentations by VP Rebecca Brown and Executive Director Dr. Erick Akins.

Two items need follow-up:

- Provide clarification on whether or not federal funds can be obtained and leveraged to upgrade Howard Hall and/or other select campus facilities; and
- Provide an overview of what the University is seeing in the way of women participating in MWBE engagement and outreach events.

Trustee Moore closed by acknowledging interim Vice President Rebecca Brown for her leadership.

### **Direct Support Organizations Committee**

*Trustee Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch reported that the Committee recommended approval of the 2021-2022 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment of \$73K for Foundation Board Support and the FY 2022-2023 budgets for the FAMU Foundation and the FAMU Rattler Boosters

The Committee received an update on divisional activities for University Advancement, having raised over \$23 million to date. The Committee also received updates for the FAMU Foundation, FAMU National Alumni Association, and a presentation was made to the Committee by the FAMU Rattler Boosters.

After the Rattler Boosters presentation, a discussion ensued regarding the proper approach to ensure compliance with University regulations. The Committee recommended adding the review and discussion of opening a checking account for the FAMU Rattler Boosters to the BOT's meeting agenda. Approval would require amending Section 2, BOT Policy 2005-18. The Committee also recommended drafting a corresponding memorandum of understanding regarding the outside operational checking account.

### **Governance**

*Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair*

Trustee Dortch reported that the Committee heard an update from Attorney Shira Thomas regarding proposed revisions of the Board of Trustee Operating Procedures. Trustee Dortch appointed Trustees Perry, Moore to a sub-committee, with him serving as chair. This sub-committee will review and revise the Operating Procedures. Next, Danielle McBeth provided the Government Relations update. The final item was Trustee Dortch reminding the Committee about the upcoming deadlines for the Board's self-evaluation and the evaluation of President Robinson.

**Special Committee on Athletics**

*Kelvin Lawson, Chair*

Chair Lawson shared that Interim AD Michael Smith gave an update on the FY22 end-of-year projections and presented the FY23 proposed budget. He projected that Athletics will end FY 22 with a small surplus for the fourth straight year. The proposed \$9.5M budget is included in the University’s operational budget.

Interim, AD Smith shared the academic standings of the student-athletes for Spring 2022, highlighted the sports with their accomplishments along with the department, touched on NIL legislation, and gave an overall view on the department’s expectations moving forward.

**Special Committee on the College of Law**

*Otis Cliatt, Chair*

Trustee Cliatt shared that the Special Committee met. Dean Keller provided the comprehensive report, including an executive summary, recommendations from the law school consultant, implementation status, and next steps. Trustees Bell and Cavazos shared concerns regarding law students and faculty. Some problems were addressed and resolved during the meeting.

Chair Lawson thanked Trustee Cliatt for agreeing to chair the Committee.

**Strategic Planning/Performance Measures Committee**

*Trustee Kristin Harper, Chair*

Trustee Harper reported that the Committee heard an update on the 2022-2027 strategic plan. She said that the University’s constituents, community representatives, and consultants crafted a plan for a transformative future consistent with the University’s vision, mission and values. The strategic plan will enhance student success, foster faculty excellence, meet performance-based metrics to fund strategic initiatives, fulfill the University’s mission, and position FAMU as a Top 100 public institution. Trustee Harper said that the Committee reviewed and refreshed the mission statement, vision statement and values to reflect “who we are and aspire to be as we approach 2027.”

The overall health of our strategic plan will be measured based on two sets of metrics- key performance indicators and measures of success indicators. The targets for the key performance indicators were established based on a comprehensive review and analysis of data and trends and were approved by the Board of Trustees in the 2022 Accountability

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Plan. In addition to the key performance indicators (KPI's), the measure of success indicators are aligned to each strategic priority. Together, the KPI's and metrics of success indicators will enable us to measure the performance and success of our strategic plan.

The moniker “BOLDLY STRIKING – Excellence, Innovation and Transformation” has five strategic priorities: Student Success, Academic Excellence, Leverage the Brand, Long-Term Fiscal Health and Sustainability, and Organizational Effectiveness and Transformation.

Trustee Harper indicated that the Committee voted to approve the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan at an upcoming called meeting. The staff will brief the Board individually over the next four weeks.

Chair Lawson thanked Trustee Harper her for her hard work. He shared that her work on the plan included attending regular meetings with the University's team and outreach to the respective constituency groups.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board of Trustees (BT)**

- BT1 February 17, 2022 Minutes
- BT2 March 4, 2022 Minutes
- BT3 April 20, 2022 Minutes

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)**

- ASA1 Tenure
- ASA2 New Degree – Master of Science in Material Science and Engineering
- ASA3 New Degree – Doctor of Philosophy in Material Science and Engineering
- ASA5 Revised BOT Policy 2005-08 – Sponsored Contracts and Grants Policy
- ASA6 Revised BOT Policy 2005-09 – Principal Investigator Policy
- ASA7 Revised BOT Policy 2014-01 – Export Control

**Audit and Compliance Committee**

- AACC1 Division of Audit Annual Work Plan
- AACC2 I/C ERM Policy Update
- AACC3 ERM Risk Appetite Statement
- AACC4 Amendment to Regulation 10.122 – Conflicts of Interest and Commitment

**Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)**

- BFF1 Amendment to Regulation 3.017, Schedule of Tuition & Fees
- BFF2 Budget Amendment for Childcare Center

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- BFF3 Budget Amendment for Student Orientation
- BFF4 Barnes and Noble Agreement
- BFF5 Contract Amendment – CDW
- BFF6 2022-2023 Preliminary University Budget
- BFF7 2023-2024 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget: Capital Improvement Plan
- BFF8 Property Write-Offs
- BFF9 Banking Resolution

**Direct Support Organizations Committee (DSO)**

- DSO1 2021-22 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment
- DSO2 Acceptance of DSO Budgets: FY 2022-2023
  - A. FAMU Foundation, Inc.
  - B. FAMU Rattler Boosters

Chair Lawson asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Harper moved approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dortch, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Trustee Dortch moved that the Boosters have a checking account only for their membership dues, which will operate against an approved budget. Trustee Moore seconded the motion. Chair Lawson offered a friendly amendment requiring an audit of the account at their expense. Trustee Dortch accepted the amendment. Trustee Harper offered another friendly amendment requiring an annual audit. That amendment was also accepted by Trustee Dortch. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Chair Lawson reminded the Board that the following items were removed from the Consent Agenda during the committee meetings:

- ASA4 Proposed Regulation 4.111 – Undergraduate Transfer Credit
- SPPM1 2022 – 2027 Strategic Plan

**CLOSED SESSION FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Chair Lawson stated that the Board was ready to move into a closed session for collective bargaining. He said that the Board would reconvene into the public meeting at its conclusion. He then recognized Vice President Denise Wallace, who provided instructions regarding the closed session. She invited the following individuals to participate in the closed session: the Board of Trustees, President Robinson, Provost Edington, Attorney Robert Larkin, Attorney Denise Wallace, Attorney Shira Thomas, Attorney Candice Stuart Morris, Dr. Latrecha Scott, Nichole Murray, Herbert Bailey, Dean Allison Watson and DRS Superintendent Michael Johnson.

The Board reconvened into its open session. Chair Lawson read the three motions aloud. Trustee Perry moved approval of the revised FAMU Board of Trustees AFSCME Collective Bargaining



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Agreement 2021-2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moore and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Next, Trustee Dortch moved approval of the revisions to the FAMU-UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement 2021-2022. The motion was seconded by Trustee Harper and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Dortch moved approval of the final item - revision of the FAMU-UFF DRS Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2020-2021 year, Articles 1-20, and Article 23. The motion was seconded by Trustee Reed and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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