

**Special Committee on the College of Law Minutes**  
**Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair**  
**September 17, 2025**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Valeria Singleton called the roll.

**Members Present:**

- Trustee Belvin Perry (Chair)
- Trustee Jocelyn Dopson-Rodriguez
- Trustee Emery Gainey

A quorum was established.

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**III. Update from the College of Law**

Chair Perry introduced the sole agenda item, emphasizing the importance of continued attention to the recommendations from former Judge Simone Marstiller's report. He thanked Provost Watson and Interim Dean Howard for their continued commitment to advancing the College of Law, reaffirming the committee's focus on achieving lasting improvements and strategic growth.

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Dean Howard delivered a comprehensive update on progress at the College of Law:

*Student Support Enhancements:*

- Improvements to student life through updates to the bookstore, carpet replacements, and improved food services.
- Emphasis on creating a more supportive academic and personal environment.

*Curriculum and Innovation:*

- New partnerships, such as Excellence in Innovation in Law, introducing topics like:
  - Cyber Law
  - Artificial Intelligence and Law
  - Intellectual Property
- Expanded experiential learning opportunities to ensure students are workforce-ready before graduation.

*Strategic Planning:*

- The faculty committee has begun internal assessments aligned with the NextGen Bar Exam.
  - A draft strategic plan for the College of Law is expected to be shared publicly in October 2025.
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**Discussion on the NextGen Bar Exam**

Chair Perry invited Dean Howard to explain the shift to the Next Generation Bar Exam, which:

- Focuses on skills-based learning over theory.
- Encourages legal analysis, application, and practical readiness.
- Will impact the 2025 entering cohort, who will take the new exam format in 2028.

Dean Howard described how the law school has:

- Introduced a two-credit skills course in the 1L year (replacing two one-credit courses).
  - Added graded bar preparation courses in the third year.
  - Increased clinical and internship opportunities for practical experience.
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**Enhancements to Orientation and Early Skills Training**

Dean Howard detailed orientation and pre-orientation changes:

- All incoming students are required to complete a Fundamentals of Lawyering course before arriving.
  - Orientation includes skills-based training on case briefing, legal memos, and class preparation.
  - Skills and doctrinal faculty jointly teach sessions to emphasize the difference between skills and substantive law.
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**Faculty Development and Bar Prep Integration**

In response to a question from Trustee Kristin Harper on faculty excellence, Dean Howard outlined steps to enhance pedagogy and engagement:

- Full integration of Barbri's Institutional Bar Prep Platform for both students and faculty.
- Faculty training sessions hosted by Barbri executives.
- Regular faculty discussions on student engagement and teaching strategies.
- Advocacy for an Associate Dean for Faculty Development to further support professional growth and academic alignment with the NextGen Bar.

### **Housing Challenges and Future Vision**

Dean Howard responded to an inquiry on housing access:

- Currently, there is no dedicated housing available for law students.
  - The school provides referrals to local housing near downtown Orlando.
  - Long-term goals include developing housing on a university-owned lot adjacent to the College of Law.
  - The Dean is pursuing partnerships with local apartment developers and seeking support from city and county leadership to explore the possibility of reduced-rate housing for law students.
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There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Belvin Perry, Committee Chair