



**Board of Trustees Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022**

Chair Kelvin Lawson called the meeting to order. Trustees Bell, Cavazos, Cliatt, Dortch, Dubose, Harper, Lawson, Perry, and Stone established a quorum. Trustees Reed and Washington did not participate in the call due to prior commitments.

Chair Lawson asked if there were any requests for public comments, and there were none.

The first agenda item was an update on the plan to implement the Civil Discourse Recommendations from the Board of Governors. Provost Edington led the Board through the recommendations. Trustee Moore moved approval of the plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee Harper and passed with a unanimous vote.

Provost Edington presented the Textbook Affordability Report. The report must be submitted to the Board of Governors by September 30, 2022. Trustee Dubose offered a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Stone and carried a unanimous vote.

Next, Provost Edington shared information regarding the University's request for specialized admissions for undergraduate degree programs in architecture, journalism, public relations, and nursing. Trustee Moore moved approval of the request. Trustee Perry seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The final action item was the E&G Carry Forward Spending Plan and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget presented by Vice President Gloria Walker. The Board did not have any questions. Trustee Harper offered a motion to approve, which was seconded by Trustee Dubose. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Provost Edington shared an update on the Athletics Action Plan. He stated that the University will use the institutional effectiveness structure with athletics. There will be metrics, scorecards, and performance monitoring to support compliance efforts. He also said there will be enhanced internal and external communication with all stakeholders. Provost Edington informed the Board that President Robinson re-established the Athletic Support Committee, which has been meeting weekly. That committee is driving and supporting this overall assessment. President Robinson also committed to having ongoing engagement with the football team's leadership council.

The plan includes the following components:

- **Assessing the Athletics program** – Assessments include compliance, student academic support, student aid, personnel, and audit.
- **Enhancing Compliance Support** -The compliance function at the University will be increased to seven staff positions, including liaisons to the Financial Aid Office, the registrar's office, and overall increased staff for compliance.
- **Academic Support** - Staff will be increased to five full-time advisors, enhanced training, and expanded tutorial services.
- **Enhancing Financial Assistance** – There will be increased support during the summer for lodging and meals. The plan also includes improved communication

with the student-athletes, timely disbursement of aid to the students, and increased student awareness of financial aid requirements

- **Athletic Position Management** – The University is currently working to fill vacancies for coaches and key staff actively. The University will also evaluate and assess the performance of the administrators and coaches to ensure accountability, tying their performance to critical outcomes.
- **Audit Services** – The University will engage external assistance. They will assess the athletics action plan and provide feedback to ensure that the University has the proper focus within the plan.

Trustee Harper inquired about the University's relationship with Bond, Schoeneck, and King. Attorney Shira Thomas responded that Bond, Schoeneck, and King has worked with the University since 2014 regarding NCAA investigations and assisted with the Office of Compliance regarding NCAA reporting. The firm also helped the university navigate the different NCAA issues, investigations, responses, waivers, and other compliance processes. They will enhance their service by including an attorney in residence who will work on campus to help fill the gap while the compliance team is being built.

The University will use its institutional effectiveness approach with Athletics, including monitoring student progress during the semester and using technological tools with early alert systems. The University will use a very granular process to help improve retention and graduation rates. Monitoring will occur using scorecards and tracking classroom attendance and academic performance.

Trustee Cliatt asked that staff provide data regarding the average number of compliance staff in other Universities in the SWAC and the average number of compliance staff in similarly sized universities. He also suggested that the football team utilize the student trustee because he is their representative. He stated that there need to be deadlines to fix the problems discussed and that all coaches should be trained on the software used by Compliance. He stressed accountability regarding who is following up to ensure measures are taking place.

Trustee Dubose asked for the team to provide answers to three questions during the October Board meeting.

1. Will the rest of the Athletic Department's programs be scrutinized to ensure no gaps?
2. Is there going to be a consolidated dashboard to help display the actions happening in different areas?
3. How has the University addressed some of the challenges in the Music Department in terms of financial support?

Trustee Moore suggested that the University develop a time standard throughout the plan. She also stated that the University needs to think about a practice that involves external review and technical assistance and giving an internal check before the outside world provides the University with an external check.

Trustee Cavazos asked that the Board resume the Athletics Committee and that it meet consistently. She reported that faculty members want to see how they can collaborate with Athletics to ensure no student slips through the cracks. She also suggested that academic reports should be weekly and include information regarding class attendance and class exams.

Chair Lawson asked that the University include dates and owners that will be responsible for aspects of the plan. He asked VP Maleszewski to bring in an outside consultant to review the plan regarding how risks are assessed across athletics. Chair Lawson asked him to determine a long-

term risk assessment, whereby the athletic committee can regularly updated regarding the risk level with the Athletics Department.

In closing, Chair Lawson stated that the University is bringing on a crisis management team to assist the leadership team and members of the Board.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.