

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

Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kristin Harper, Chair

Chair Harper called the meeting to order. Trustees Aly, Cliatt, Figgers, Gibbons, Harper, Lawson, May, Perry, Reed, Stone and White established a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comments.

REPORTS

-
President's Report

Dr. Timothy Beard, Interim President

-
President Beard provided an overview on the update of the President's goals, first 100 days priority action plan, performance-based funding outcomes, Boldly Striking key performance indicators, degrees awarded spring 2024, fall enrollment headcount, student success, academic excellence and striking with pride. He emphasized the importance of accountability and responsibility and highlighted some notable achievements by faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Beard also announced that a transitional advisory team is being developed to engage with the community as a part of his action plan. The first advisory team meeting will convene by October 1, 2024. The meeting also discussed the University's performance-based funding trends, the goal for the 6-year graduation rate, and the importance of student success. Trustees raised concerns about the decrease in bachelor's degrees awarded to transfer students and the percentage of graduates earning \$40,000 or more the first year after graduation. Dr. Lewis Johnson and other team members responded, indicating they were working on targeted initiatives to increase the number of degrees awarded to transfer students and that the University was on track to improve the 6-year graduation rate. The discussion also highlighted the need for strategic planning in the University's programs, particularly in light of the changing job market and the shift towards workforce development. The participants agreed these issues must be prioritized and discussed with the Board.

-
Chair's Report

Trustee Kristin Harper, Chair

-
Chair Harper was invited to speak at Tuesday's Faculty Senate Town Hall meeting. A few things that were highlighted were the role of the Board and the role of the Chair of the Board, what the Board's priorities are, and how to support the Board's aspirations toward R1 Carnegie status. During the conversation, an emphasis on the critical role of faculty as it relates to being the number one public or private HBCU and the fact that upwards of 40% of the US News and World Report rankings relate to 4-year graduation rates overall among first-generation students among Pell grant eligible students and their critical role as it relates to the metrics, our progress, and providing the value, proposition, and return on investment. Two topics of concern among faculty are 1) salaries, workload, and retention and 2) Transparency and communication. The faculty wanted to emphasize the importance of timely, proactive, and transparent communication because with any change comes anxiety.

-

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

Student Government Report

Trustee Loryn May, SGA President

Trustee May reported on the successful confirmations of her cabinet officials, onboarding training, and various platform points executed since the start of the fall semester. SGA collaborated with multiple organizations and hosted Strike the Vote Week, which included a Town Hall with Mayor John Dailey. The group also hosted the presidential debate viewing event. The Student Government Association participated in recruitment events in Atlanta, Miami, and Ft. Lauderdale. Lastly, the Student Government Association will travel to the University of Central Florida in Orlando this upcoming week to participate in the Florida Student Voting Summit and host an open house meet and greet and its Inauguration later in September.

-
Faculty Senate Report

Trustee Ezzeldin Aly, Faculty Senate President

-
Trustee Aly reported that a new multi-institutional engineering research center to improve the robotics industry received up to \$52 million and Provost Watson's Level Up Tour, where the academic affairs teams visited all 14 colleges and schools to identify key strategies for reaching the University's unlimited potential. Action planning workshops focused on strategic planning and alignment with the 2025-2027 Boldly Striking were also held. Lastly, two professors from the College of Engineering were awarded \$5 million grants from the National Science Foundation for quantum science research.

POST-TENURE REVIEW AUDIT

Trustee White presented the Post Tenure Review Audit to ensure compliance with BOG regulations and its requirements, evaluate the effectiveness of the PCR process, and determine if the processes align with the University's goals and priorities. The audit found the current process effective and compliant with several recommendations for improvement, which were accepted by management, and corrective actions are underway. The Board will receive an update on the status of the corrective actions at the December meeting. Trustee Reed moved approval of the post-tenure review audit. Trustee Lawson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-
Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Nicole Washington, Committee Chair

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended approval of the following items:

- Minutes for the May 20, 2024 meeting
- Textbook Affordability Report
- General Education Course Description Updates
- Requests for Leave of Absence for Dr. Raquista Claitt, Professor Nandi Riley, and Dr. Ameenah Shakir.

The Committee also heard updates on the Career Center.

Audit and Compliance Committee

Trustee Michael White, Committee Chair

The Committee took up several action items.

ACTION ITEMS

The Committee approved:

- **Minutes** for the May 28, 2024 meeting.
- Updates to the Committee Charter and related Board Operating Procedures.
- A new ERM Charter, separating it from the Division of Audit Charter in recognition of this function moving under the Chief Operating Officer. The update also recognizes Deidre's role as a staff member of this Committee.
- A revised Division of Audit Charter, ensuring complete alignment with the revised professional auditing standards.
- The Post-Tenure Review Audit.
- The Office of Compliance and Ethics Annual Report and Program Plan. and
- Update to University Regulation 5.005 Freedom of Expression and Assembly Rights and Responsibilities.

Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer Calhoun and Chief Privacy Officer Baker provided information in the Board's materials. VP Maleszewski and Chief Risk Officer Melton presented several information items, including:

1. Division of Audit Annual Report
2. Audit and Investigative Follow-up
3. External Audit Updates
4. ERM Update
5. Division of Audit Update

Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee

Trustee Craig Reed, Committee Chair

The Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee September meeting agenda consisted of five (5) action items. The action items consisted of the following:

- 1) Minutes from May 29, 2024, Committee Meeting,
- 2) Final 2024-2025 Operating Budget,
- 3) FY 2024-2025 University Carryforward Spending Plan and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget,
- 4) South Central Utility Plant- Additional Contract Authority,
- 5) Approval of Campus Development Agreement.

Items identified for follow-up action:

1. Provide an update on the operations and maintenance of the University Pool to Trustee Figgers.
2. Provide Trustee White with a list of all service and construction contracts and change orders.

Direct Support Organizations and Athletics Committee

Trustee Kristin Harper, Board Chair

The Committee recommended approval of the following items:

1. FY 2024-2025 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment for \$132,063 in salary funding for the VP/AD position.

The Committee was presented with the following informational items:

- a. A discussion on the Bylaws for the University's Direct Support Organizations.
- b. Divisional Updates for University Advancement and the Direct Support Organizations.

Acting AD Smith provided an update on the Athletics Department.

Governance Committee

Trustee Kenny Stone, Committee Chair

The Governance Committee met earlier today and approved the minutes. The Committee also:

- agreed to table President Beard's 2024-2025 annual goals;
- tabled recommended revisions to the Operating Procedures regarding Direct Support Organizations/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee responsibilities;
- recommended approval of revisions to the BOT Operating Procedures regarding the Audit and Compliance Committee and
- reviewed its annual action plan, noting that Trustee Stone will work with the general counsel and the chief of staff to initiate a comprehensive review of the Operating Procedures.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Harper reviewed the Consent Agenda with the Board. She then removed President Beard's 2024-2025 annual goals and the recommended revisions to the Operating Procedures regarding Direct Support Organizations/Intercollegiate Athletics Committee responsibilities until later. Trustee May moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Lawson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

A. Board of Trustees Minutes (BT)

- BT1 May 29, 2024
- BT2 June 24, 2024
- BT3 July 23, 2024
- BT4 July 30, 2024
- BT5 August 8, 2024

B. Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)

- ASA1 Textbook Affordability Report
- ASA2 General Education Course Description Updates
- ASA3 Leaves of Absence
 - Raquista Claitt
 - Nandi Riley
 - Ameenah Shakir

C. Audit and Compliance Committee (AACC)

- AACC1 AACC, Division of Audit and ERM Charter Updates
- AACC2 OCE Annual Report and Program Plan
- AACC3 Update University Regulation 5.005 Freedom of Expression and Assembly Rights and Responsibilities

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

- D. Budget, Finance, and Facilities Committee
 - BFF1 Final 2024-2025 Operating Budget
 - BFF2 FY2024-2025 University Carryforward Spending Plan and Fixed Capital Outlay Budget
 - BFF3 South Central Utility Plant – Additional Contract Authority
 - BFF4 Approval of Campus Development Agreement

- E. Direct Support Organizations and Athletics Committee (DSO)
 - DSO1 2024-2025 Foundation Operating Budget Amendment

- F. Governance Committee (GC)
 - ~~GC1 President Beard's 2024-2025 Goals~~
 - GC2 Board of Trustees Operating Procedures Update

Chair Harper will provide a timeline for the Presidential search process and next steps before the December 2024 Board meeting.

-
ADJOURNMENT

-
There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting adjourned.