

Florida A & M University  
Emergency Full Board of Trustees Meeting

Teleconference

FAMU President's Conference Room

Trustees Present: Challis M. Lowe, Chair; William Jennings, Vice-Chair; Phillip Agnew; W. George Allen; Regina Benjamin; Laura Branker; Al Cardenas; Mary Diallo; Pamela Duncan; R. B. Holmes; Leerie Jenkins; Daryl Parks

Trustees Absent: Spurgeon McWilliams

Minutes/Summary

The Board of Trustees Emergency Teleconference Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll Call established a quorum present and the Agenda, which was adopted, included four items: the shift of fiduciary responsibility of the College of Engineering from FAMU to FSU; status of accreditation for the College of Law and the College of Pharmacy; summer school; and employee health insurance. A fifth item was added by Trustee Duncan—BOT elections.

President Castell Vaughn Bryant was asked to address several concerns regarding the shift of fiduciary responsibility of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering from FAMU to FSU. She stated that the initial agreement/ plan makes provisions for one university to act as fiscal agent and one as operational agent with rotation of duties. Both are to be monitored by a Joint Management Council. However, FAMU has served as fiscal agent since the inception of the College until a Memorandum (07-08) stated that FSU would become fiscal agent. Additionally, she stated that the fiscal agent is the only thing on the table. Further, she stated that the Legislature reserves the right and power to overturn committee decisions and not necessarily after consultation.

Trustee Parks asked how this decision would affect FAMU. President Bryant responded that nothing will be changed except the E & G Budget.

Trustee Benjamin's concern was that the public thinks that we are turning over the Engineering College to FSU.

Trustee Allen asked if President Bryant had entered into an agreement with FSU President T. K. Wetherell.

Trustee Jennings wanted to know when and how was President Bryant notified. To this, Chairperson Lowe stated that she had called Senator Al Lawson and that he did not know.

Trustee Holmes asked if FAMU had paid the Engineering bills on a timely basis.

It was concluded after discussion that the Board of Trustees would draft a Resolution to the Legislature asking that the fiscal responsibility for the College of Engineering be restored to FAMU. Trustee Jennings accepted the responsibility for drafting the Resolution for the BOT. All Board members will receive a copy of the Resolution. Senator Lawson will be asked to draft one for the Senate and Representative Richardson for the House. Updates on accreditation issues for the College of Law and Pharmacy were provided by Dr. Debra Austin, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

First, the College of Law is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 5-year provisional accreditation status. Dr. Austin stated that a consultant has been working with the staff since last Fall. Also, she stated that challenges exist in the areas of retention, recruitment and Bar passage rate. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Allen asked if there were effects to the accreditation process because the College is being administered by an Interim Dean. Dr. Austin does not believe that we are being affected by having an Interim Dean since the work to correct the standard is being done.

Trustee Agnew asked if the Hollins Group is still conducting a search for a permanent dean. Also, he asked where the dean's search is on the list of priorities. President Bryant stated that the permanent dean will probably be hired under President Ammons.

Trustee Diallo stated that she has been contacted about the lack of support from the main campus. Dr. Austin was not certain that she knew what "lack of support" means; she has not been contacted. Next, Dr. Austin began the discussion about the "Probationary Status" of the College of Pharmacy.

First, she assured the BOT that any student who is graduating from the College of Pharmacy is graduating from an accredited college. She stated that the Mid-Term Progress Report is due on April 15, 2007, and that the faculty is assisting with addressing the 30 plus standards cited in the report. The College will have a follow-up visit in February, 2008. And finally, she stated that someone has been hired to assist with assessment and curricular issues. With regards to the financial resources issues, President Bryant stated that Senator Al Lawson was assisting by requesting 2 million dollars from the Legislature for operational funds and an additional 7.5 million in PECO funds to complete the construction of Phase II.

Trustee Holmes suggested a Resolution for the same and it was approved by the twelve Trustees present. He also suggested that the Resolution be ready by the end of the week since the Legislative session has only 30 days remaining.

Trustee Allen asked about the next accreditation visit and Dr. Austin supplied the following:

- 1) Written Status report—April 15, 2007
- 2) Accreditation Visit—February, 2008
- 3) Formal Response—June, 2008

Dr. Austin addressed Summer school issues next.

Dr. Austin stated that a sufficient number of classes will be offered, and that summer enrollment is generally ½ of Spring enrollment. Further, she stated that colleges and schools have been issued an adequate budget.

Chairperson Lowe requested that Dr. Austin provide ratios that will compare last year's Summer session.

Trustee Diallo expressed concern that since the courses had not been posted in a timely manner that students may have enrolled in other schools.

Trustee Agnew stated that better communication is imperative.

Chairperson Lowe requested that Dr. Austin solicit the assistance of the dean in acquiring a list of students who have been approved to take classes outside FAMU. Further, she suggested an immediate "mass and targeted" communication.

Dr. Janie Greenleaf, Director of Human Resources, responded to questions from Trustees regarding employee Health Insurance. Questions included:

- 1) Why did FAMU not pay its share of employee's Health Insurance premiums?
- 2) What has been done to correct the system to prevent a recurrence of this problem?

**\* Detailed answers are part of the PROCEEDINGS recorded by the Court reporter and may be provided upon request.**

President Bryant announced that the Responses to the Operations Audit were in the final stages of preparation and on schedule. The BOT will receive copies of the Response.

Trustee Duncan asked about the election of BOT officials.

Trustee Agnew asked if there would be BOT responses to questions submitted by students. Chairperson Lowe stated that the responses to students are operational issues.

Trustee Allen suggested that the BOT Audit Committee review the Audit Responses to the State of Florida before submission.

Trustee Daryl Parks was appointed to the BOT Audit Committee by Chairperson Lowe.

The Teleconference Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.