

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Special Committee on the College of Law Minutes

Trustee Belvin Perry, Committee Chair

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

The Special Committee on the College of Law met on December 2, 2020. Trustees Harper, Lawrence, Perry and Woody were present and established a quorum.

Trustee Perry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2020 and September 22, 2020 meetings. Trustee Woody moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Dean Keller provided an update on the program improvement plan for the College of Law. She shared that the College has made several changes regarding admissions. The key indicators for admissions include moving the median LSAT score from 146 to 147; raising the undergraduate GPA from 3.11 to 3.30; and reducing the first-year class size from 209 to 112 this year. The strategy was to admit students that the College could support to success.

In reviewing the bar passage rates since 2005, Dean Keller pointed out that there were only four out of 31 administrations where the college had achieved a passage rate of 70% or better. She stated that the data indicated that low bar passage has been pervasive and that it's going to require foundational shifts to effectuate change.

Dean Keller then provided an update on academic support. She said that the goal is to enhance the curriculum, with an emphasis on skills. She said they are providing support to students identified as in danger of failing the bar. The College restructured its curriculum to bring it in line with other US schools. Skills courses will also be taught early in the curriculum, as that will support students in their other classes.

Regarding faculty development, the goal is to engage the faculty in a robust program focused on pedagogy and assessment. The charge for the ad hoc committee on faculty development is to consider topics such as writing valid and reliable multiple-choice questions, integrating formative assessments into the law classroom and integrating skills into doctrinal teaching.

Dean Keller introduced the external consultant Barry Currier, who addressed the committee. In his role, he will examine career planning and professional development, student services, the budget and academics. Dean Keller will prepare a timeline regarding the consultant's work.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.