

Special Committee on Athletics Minutes

Chair Kelvin Lawson

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the Special Committee on Athletics meeting to order. Ms. Karai Lockley – Senior Associate Athletic Director of Business and Finance/Senior Woman Administrator called the roll. The following committee members were present, and a quorum was established: Trustee Ann Marie Cavazos, Trustee Thomas Dortch Trustee David Lawrence, Trustee Otis Cliatt, Trustee Carrington Whingham and Chair/Trustee Kelvin Lawson.

Chair Lawson pushed the approval of the June 2021 minutes to the December meeting because they were not posted for review.

There were no action items at the time of the Board meeting however, there were a few discussion items and that included the results of the FY21 budget and an Athletics Department overview. Vice President and Athletic Director Kortne Gosha also discussed game day challenges and opportunities of improvement.

VP/AD Gosha started the presentation with announcing that Athletics has balanced the FY21 budget – which included salary reductions and rolled back operations. As these cuts were made – they did not affect the student-athlete experience.

Athletics was able to generate roughly \$430,000 in revenue to offset the departmental expenses that created a slight surplus once the University's financial statements are completed.

VP/AD Gosha highlighted that through fundraising across 10 cities coined 'The Strike Tour' was able to raise over \$500,000 that will support all 14 varsity programs, summer school expenses and facility upgrades. The tour started in Jacksonville, Florida and ended in Atlanta, Georgia.

Athletics has addressed athletic facility upgrades as it pertains to Title IX challenges. In fiscal year 21 – there have been \$1.6 Million of facility upgrades with \$1 million of those dollars being philanthropic dollars through the Rattler Athletic Fund.

Trustee Cavazos presented a question in regards to the facility upgrades and if these were done across the entire program. VP/AD Gosha responded with the upgrades have been in phases and each program has had some type of enhancement to their areas.

VP/AD Gosha discussed the completion of Phase I of the Bragg Stadium renovation and Phase II will begin after the season and fundraising efforts will continue to help close the gap where funding is needed. In addition – with the addition to Rattler Sports Properties – there are \$210,000 in contract sponsorships with \$190,000 pitches in the streets with a year end goal of roughly \$300,000.

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Athletics has launched their own sports network that reduces the broadcasting expenditure. Out of 20 weeks out of the year and will be partnering with Hyatt House to broadcast the Coaches Show.

There is also an ESPN documentary that started filming in August of 2021 and will continue on through the championship quest this December.

Campus partners and the Athletic Department have met to rectify the deficiencies that presented themselves at the first home football game.

As VP/AD Gosha completed the report – Chair Lawson updated the Board on the south Florida Board of Governor’s meetings that took place on the campus of Florida International University. Chair Lawson, VP/AD Gosha and Joseph Maleszewski (Vice President for Audit) – presented the year-end budget and the projections for this current fiscal year.