

**Alabama A&M University
Clyde Foster Multipurpose Room
Normal, Alabama
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Friday, June 24, 2022
10am**

MINUTES

Members Present (Attachment 1)

1. Trustee Jerome Williams, President Pro-Tempore
2. Trustee Wayne Watts, Vice President
3. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole, Secretary
4. Trustee Richard Crunkleton
5. Trustee Nichelle Gainey
6. Trustee John Hackett Jr.
7. Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett
8. Trustee Jeanette Jones, Faculty Senate President
9. Trustee Jaila Green-Mascotti, Student Government Association President

Members Absent

1. Trustee Kevin Ball
2. Trustee Ginger Harper
3. Trustee Chris Robinson
4. Trustee Frank Williams

University Officials

- Dr. Daniel K. Wims, President, Alabama A&M University ("AAMU")

Attorney for the Board of Trustees

- Attorney Rod Steakley

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting of the Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees was called to order by Trustee Jerome Williams, President, Pro Tempore serving as the Presiding Officer per Article IV Section 3 of the Bylaws, at 10:05am.

ECUMENICAL INVOCATION

- Trustee John Hackett, Jr. gave the Ecumenical Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

- Per Board of Trustees Bylaws, Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, called the Roll. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Trustee Jerome Williams requested the adoption of the agenda (Attachment 2). Trustee John Hackett Jr. moved for the adoption of the published agenda. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the motion. The Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 17, 2022

- Trustee Wayne Watts moved that the Board adopt the minutes and recommendations of the last sub-committee meetings of February 17, 2022 as presented to the Board (Attachment 3). Trustee John Hackett Jr. seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 18, 2022

- Trustee Richard Crunkleton moved that the Board approve the minutes of the last Board of Trustees Meeting of February 18, 2022, as presented to the Board (Attachment 4). Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Daniel K. Wims introduced special guests from the Higher Education Partnership.

Guests were:

Gordon Stone, Executive Director

Liz Craig, representative for the North Alabama area; she will work closely with the administrative team on campus

Ale'gna Davis, Student Programs Coordinator; she will work with campus outreach programs to provide training for student leaders

Alexi Bolton, Director of Communications and Policy

Trustee Jerome Williams thanked the members for the Higher Education Partnership for their support and attendance.

President Wims formally thanked Dr. Malinda Swoope for organizing and arranging the Board of Trustees Retreat in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Dr. Andrea Cunningham gave a presentation on Title III Strengthening Grants Programs. Dr. Cunningham discussed how the Department of Education funds the Title III programs with the primary purpose of enhancing and supporting University initiatives. The funding is provided thru non-competitive grants over 3-5 years with the funds being awarded yearly. Title III supports three strategic priorities (1) strengthening ITS, (2) enhancing student engagement and (3) facilities revitalization. Dr. Cunningham's presentation also focused on how all of the initiatives of the program tie back into the University's strategic plan but more specifically (1) academic quality, (2) student services and outcomes, (3) fiscal stability, and (4) institutional management. Dr. Cunningham shared that the grants and activities under Title III are a collaboration with the President and the cabinet. The presentation also included discussion on how funding is awarded. Funding is determined using a formula for each area of the grant. There are three areas:

HBCU Part B and HBCU Part F: considers the number of Pell grant recipients and the number of graduates

HGBI Phase I: University's ability to match the federal funds awarded, graduate enrollment, average cost of education, number of African American graduate students in STEM, and the number of graduates (African-American) from STEM programs.

An Annual Performance Report (APR) of every activity is due at the end of each year. This report also includes an impact statement from every area.

Dr. Malinda Swoope presented updates on the current strategic plan, special initiatives from the Office of the President, SACSCOC reaffirmation, and First Year Experience, Retention, and Persistence. The current strategic plan covers ten years (2015-2025) and is titled "Into the Future" There have been updates made to the existing plan in 2019 and 2021. Dr. Swoope stated that during the President's Cabinet retreat on May 23, 2022 updates were made to the strategic plan, six priorities were identified, as well as a list of things to do which included updating the president's section and names of new Cabinet members.

Dr. Swoope provided a SACSCOC reaffirmation update which showed the University in good standing with the accreditation agency. The University has held this accreditation for the past ten years with no sanctions or reports within the last five years. Dr. Swoope stated this allowed the University to be approved for a Differentiated Review headed into the decennial review process. The SACSCOC team has already started working on the next important component of the certification process which is due September 8, 2023.

Dr. Swoope also provided updates on the First Year Experience, Retention, and Persistence Taskforce. She shared that the group has two goals: to increase the retention rate by 1% each year from 61% to 64% by 2023 and to increase the graduation rate to 30%. Dr. Swoope stated that the taskforce is working to organize a center for student support specialists and coordinators and to hire a data specialist. Those positions will be filled by faculty who have been cross trained across the departments within the University.

Dr. Wims thanked the Chairman of the Board, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alums. He provided updates on the current public searches in progress for Cabinet positions including 1) the ongoing search Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. There are four finalists for the position. Dr. Wims is waiting on the report of the committee chair; 2) Chief Information Officer There are 2 finalists for the position; 3) Vice President for Research and Economic Development There are 3 finalists for the position 4) Associate Vice President of Government Relations, 5) Chief Financial Officer and the newly announced positions of 6) Director of Athletics and 7) Director of Human Resources.

Dr. Wims announced the new hires for Vice President of Marketing, Communications and Advancement, Mr. Jamal Ali; the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Braque Talley; the Dean for the College of Business and Public Affairs, Dr. Charles Richardson; and the Head Men's Basketball Coach Otis Hughley

Information was presented regarding the increases in enrollment. Summer 2022 enrollment is up 37% from Summer 2020 and 59% from Summer 2019. Fall enrollment is up 9%. The increase in enrollment is also a need for an increase in housing, a challenge Dr. Wims says the University welcomes.

Dr. Wims also gave information regarding the Foundation Board Meeting held on June 13. Trustee Richard Crunkleton was added as a board member. The foundation is in the process of acquiring 68.2 acres behind Hillcrest.

Dr. Wims shared that the University has executed a Magic City Contract extension for this year and is working with Alabama State and the city of Birmingham for a new three to five-year contract extension. The University will begin work on that extension after the summer session ends.

Dr. Wims shared that he is legislatively soliciting support from north Alabama delegates and will continue visiting officials both in and out of state. Dr. Wims shared that appropriations are up a total of \$8.1 million (4 million in base operations, 2.5 million in renovations, and 1.6 million in special projects).

Dr. Wims thanked Chair, Dr. Jeanette Jones and Honorary Chair Representative Laura Hall for the Investiture ceremony. He also expressed thanks to Drs. Tonya Perry and Charlotte Teague for leading the Presidential Transition Team. Dr. Wims shared that Drs. Jeanette Jones and Tonya Perry would help establish a University Advisory Council and Mr. Jamal Ali and Mrs. Sandra Stubbs would help with the Alumni Advisory Council.

Dr. Wims also shared that he would be traveling to Israel July 1-8, 2022 with Thurgood Marshall College Fund and other 1890s institutions.

Dr. Wims provided thanks and well wishes on future endeavors to both Mr. Bryan Hicks and Dr. Malinda Swoope who both previously announced departures from AAMU.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Trustee Jerome Williams expressed gratitude to the subcommittee chairs for their efforts. Trustee Williams stated that the Board would continue to advocate for faculty and staff and increase funding for infrastructure. Trustee Williams acknowledged the department of Business and Finance for the increase in the budget for faculty and staff and noted that next year the University should be prepared to continue to look at ways to be on par with other universities and be as comparable as possible. Trustee Williams also noted that focus will be placed on increasing retention and graduation rates in order to attract stellar thought leaders.

Trustee Williams issued a challenge to look at the carbon footprint of the University. He wants to see the University energy dependent and seeking solar storage. His challenge included an aggressive approach to move the University towards energy independence in 5 years with at least a 50% change in two and a half years. Trustee Williams asked the department of Business and Finance to seek out grants that could assist and in turn lower cost of utilities allowing the excess funds to go into infrastructure.

Trustee Williams applauded the service of Dr. Malinda Swoope to the University as well as the Board of Trustees during her tenure as Board Liaison.

REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

1. Permanent Committees

➤ Business and Finance

Chair: Trustee Richard Crunkleton

Committee Members: Trustees John Hackett, Wayne Watts, Frank Williams and Ginger Harper

A. Action Items

1. AAMU FY 2023 Proposed Operating Budget

Trustee Jerome Williams carried the motion to accept the FY 2023 Budget of \$217, 210,398. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

2. Approval of Proposed Tuition, Fees, Room and Board

Trustee Jerome Williams carried the motion to approve the tuition, fees, room and board. Trustee John Hackett Jr. seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

3. Sale of Land on Chase Road

Trustee Jerome Williams carried the motion to rescind the previous action of the Board of Trustees and to further explore if the property should be sold and on what basis the land should be sold. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

➤ Academic Affairs and Research

Chair: Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett

Committee Members: Trustees John Hackett Jr., Wayne Watts, Jeanette Jones

A. Action Items

The action items for Academic Affairs and Research were brought from the committee. Due to this, no seconds were needed. The motions were presented for all in favor or all opposed. The Motions passed.

1. Proposal to Create Four Associate Dean Positions entitled Associate Dean for Student Success

2. MOU between AAMU and Dominica State College, Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica

3. Request to Change the Degree Program Name from Business Management and Administration to Business Administration

4. Request to Restructure the Department of Social Work, Psychology and Counseling into Two Separate Entities (Department of Psychology and Counseling and Department of Social Work)

5. Request to Add New Program (Ph.D. in Social Work- 58 credit hours; minimum GPA 3.0)

6. Request to Delete Three Concentrations in the MS, Counseling Psychology Program

a. COU_REHB Counseling Psychology

b. COU_REHD Counseling Psychology

c. COU_REGHG Counseling Psychology

7. MOU between AAMU and Teachers College, Columbia University

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

C. Report from the Faculty Senate President

Trustee Jeanette Jones reported that the Faculty Senate elected new Senate Officers. The faculty senate officers are Dr. Jeanette Jones, President; Dr. Joshua Herring, Vice President; Dr. Tonya Davis, Secretary; Dr. Elicia Moss, Assistant Secretary. Trustee Jones also reported that the Senate elected a new Executive Committee which will consist of Chairs from Academic Affairs, Research, Student Affairs, and Technology and Distance Education. Trustee Jones shared that the Faculty Senate has a harmonious relationship with President Wims and look forward to the monthly meetings with Faculty Senators. Trustee Jones expressed appreciation for President Wims for including faculty with search processes of administrative officers and on standing/ad hoc committees. Trustee Jones shared that there will be a Faculty Senate Retreat where they will review the President's priorities and how faculty can be more supportive and involved. Trustee Jones shared that the Faculty Senate initiatives are (1) faculty mentoring, (2) E.L.E.V.A.T.E. professional development, (3) selection of new Junior and Senior faculty, (4) faculty handbook reviews (this committee meets every Friday)

Trustee Jones reported that the President's Investiture received \$470,000 total donations and shared photos from the event.

➤ **Development, Marketing, Communications, Advancement and Technology**

Chair: Trustee Wayne Watts

Committee Members: Trustees Kevin Ball, Frank Williams, Richard Crunkleton

A. Marketing, Communication and Advancement

a. Action Items

1. NONE

b. Informational Items

1. NONE

B. Informational Technology Services

a. Action Items

1. NONE

b. Informational Items

1. NONE

➤ **Athletics**

Co-Chairs: Trustees Kevin Ball and Nichelle Gainey

Committee Members: Trustees John Hackett Jr., Tiffany Johnson Cole, Ginger Harper

A. Action Items

1. NONE

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

➤ **Student Affairs**

Chair: Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

Committee Members: Trustees Wayne Watts, Kevin Ball, Scherrie Banks Pickett, Jaila Green-Mascotti

A. Action Items

1. NONE

B. Informational Items

1. Dr. Braque Talley was introduced as the Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Talley thanked the Board for the opportunity.

C. Report from the Student Government Association President

2022-2023 Student Government Association President Jaila Green-Mascotti formally introduced herself. Trustee Green-Mascotti is from Denver, Colorado. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Lambda, University Echos, and the Honors Program. Trustee Green-Mascotti's platform is Pushing P and focuses on three P's (1) Prioritizing student voices, (2) Planning ahead, and (3) Persevering. Trustee Green-Mascotti named the other executive officers of SGA Michael Jackson Jr. is Vice President, Mike Davis Jr. is Executive Treasurer, Ms. Alexis Powell is Secretary, and Jaden Blackmon is Constitutional Adviser. Trustee Green-Mascotti stated her plans for the year also include a faculty/staff basketball game, spirit week, Mental Health Mondays and a new initiative to advertise the registered student organizations on campus.

➤ **Audit and Investment**

Chair: Trustee Kevin Ball

Committee Members: Trustee Richard Crunkleton

A. Action Items

1. NONE

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

2 Special Committees➤ **Buildings and Grounds**

Chair: Trustee John Hackett Jr.

Committee Members: Trustees Ginger Harper and Richard Crunkleton

A. Action Item

1. Motion to add Amendment 1 to 2015-2025 Master Plan
Trustee John Hackett Jr. moved to approve the amendment to the Master Plan. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the motion. The Motion passed.
2. Draft MOU Councill Training Building
A motion to not approve the MOU but to move forward with the conversation on the development of the MOU once the specifics regarding how the money raised for the initiative would be reconciled. After that determination is made, the Executive Committee can approve and execute the MOU. Trustee John Hackett Jr. made the motion, Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole seconded. The motion passed.

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

➤ **Governance Committee**

Chair: Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

Committee Members: Trustees John Hackett Jr., Richard Crunkleton, Jeanette Jones

A. Action Items

1. Amendment to the Board of Trustees Bylaws

Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole made a recommendation to approve the edits. There was no 2nd needed. Attorney Rod Steakley reported that the edit was the removal of the requirement to notarize the annual form the members of the Board of Trustees completes. He explained the notary requirement sometimes was hinderance in getting the forms completed and so there is no legal issue with removing it. The Board voted in favor and the motion carried.

2. President's Board Appointment

- a. The United Way of Madison County
- b. Higher Education Partnership of Alabama
- c. The Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering
- d. The Alabama School of Mathematics and Science

The motion to approve the board appointments of Dr. Daniel K. Wims carried.

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

COMMUNICATIONS, APPEALS, AND PETITIONS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Board of Trustees Subcommittee and Formal Meetings for October 26-28, 2022**

The Subcommittee and Formal Meetings of the Board of Trustees are scheduled for October 26-28, 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama. Further, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees is empowered to change the date or location of a meeting in case of extenuating circumstances. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole moved to approve the stated dates for the June Board of Trustees Meetings. Trustee John Hackett Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Trustee Nichelle Gainey announced Athletics is celebrating 50 years of Title IX. Trustee Gainey also recognized Coach Green for the work done with Student Government Association and Athletics.
2. Trustee Jerome Williams acknowledged the contributions of Attorney Angela Debro, Dr. Allen Vitale, Mr. Bryan Hicks, and Dr. Malinda Swoope.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wayne Watts moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59am.

AAMU Board of Trustees meeting minutes of June 24, 2022 were approved by the Board of Trustees on October 28, 2022.



Presiding officer per Bylaws- Trustee Jerome Williams



Secretary of the Board- Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

Attachments

1. AAMU BOT Attendance from June 24, 2022
2. AAMU BOT Meeting Agenda for June 24, 2022
3. AAMU BOT Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2022
4. AAMU BOT Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2022
5. AAMU Faculty Senate President's Presentation for June 24, 2022
6. AAMU Student Government Association President's Presentation for June 24, 2022