

**ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY**  
**Clyde Foster Multipurpose Room**  
**Normal, Alabama**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Friday, February 18, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present (*Attachment I*)**

1. Trustee Jerome Williams, President Pro-Tempore
2. Trustee Wayne Watts, Vice President
3. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole, Secretary (ZOOM)
4. Trustee Kevin Ball (*arrived after Roll Call*)
5. Trustee Richard Crunkleton
6. Trustee Nichelle Gainey (ZOOM)
7. Trustee Ginger Harper
8. Trustee John Hackett, Jr.
9. Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett (ZOOM)
10. Trustee Chris Robinson
11. Trustee Frank Williams
12. Trustee Jeanette Jones, Faculty Senate President
13. Trustee Austin Smith, Student Government Association President

**Members Absent**

NONE

**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 10:00 a.m.

**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 Ginger Harper 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 OCTOBER 27-28, 2021**

- Trustee Wayne Watts moved that the Board adopt the minutes and recommendations of the last sub-committee meetings of October 27-28, 2021, as presented to the Board (*Attachment 3*). Trustee Ginger Harper seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 29, 2021**

- Trustee Chris Robinson moved that the Board approve the minutes of the last Board of Trustees Meeting of October 29, 2021, as presented to the Board (*Attachment 4*). Trustee Frank Williams seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

President Daniel K. Wims presented a presentation to the Board of Trustees entitled “President’s Report.” The report included information on the following:

- 1) President’s Priorities
- 2) Cabinet Positions
- 3) Alumni Related Activities
- 4) Legislative Related Activities
- 5) SACSCOC Launch
- 6) Review the Strategic and Master Plans
- 7) Senior Personnel Officers Designation
- 8) Assess Affiliate 501c3s
- 9) Investiture – Gala
- 10) University Advisory Council
- 11) University Partnerships and/or Visits
- 12) On Campus Activities
- 13) 12 Weeks to the Investiture

Dr. Wims shared that his priorities are those listed below:

- 1) Sustain Commitment to and Focus on the University’s Strategic and Master Plans.
- 2) Develop and Implement Strategies and Best Practices to Improve the University’s Retention and Persistence Rates.
- 3) Engage in a Friendraising Campaign to increase University Giving.
- 4) Strengthen partnerships with alumni, local, regional, national and international stakeholders.
- 5) Enhance the Institution’s Effectiveness and Student-Centered Customer Service.

- 6) Improve the University Infrastructure by continuing to Address Deferred Maintenance, Major Renovations and Repairs.
- 7) Identify Funding Sources and Partnerships for New Construction on the Campus.
- 8) Develop an Imaging, Branding and Marketing Campaign to Enhance the University's Image and Recognition as it approaches the 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration.
- 9) Recruit Credentialed Faculty and Staff.
- 10) Maintain Enrollment at 6,000+ Students.
- 11) Successfully Complete the University's SACSCOC Reaffirmation and Maintain College and Departmental Level Accreditations.
- 12) Enhance the University's Public Service and Outreach to Live Up to its motto: "*Service Is Sovereignty.*"

Dr. Wims provided an updated on the current public searches that are in progress for the Cabinet positions including the 1) Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, 2) Vice-President for Research and Economic Development, 3) Vice-President for Business and Finance/Chief Financial Officer, 4) Vice President for Student Affairs, 5) Vice-President for Marketing, Communications and Advancement, and 6) the Chief Information Officer.

Dr. Wims provided an update on the many alumni chapters that he has visited and also that he was establishing an Alumni Advisory Council. An update was provided to the Board that he has appointed an Interim Associate Vice-President of Governmental Affairs, Relations and Communications. In addition, he shared a listing of the many governmental and local community officials that he has met with.

Dr. Wims informed the members of the Board of Trustees that the university is currently in the middle of the SACSCOC Reaffirmation and a more detailed presentation was given by Dr. Malinda Swoope.

Information was presented regarding the Senior Personnel Designation distinguishing the individual for the specific areas to include 1) The 1890 Alabama Cooperative Extension Service (ACES) Administrator (The Extension Program), 2) Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (Division of Academic Affairs), and the Vice President for Business and Finance (Divisions of Business and Finance, Student Affairs, Marketing, Communications and Advancement, Chief Information Officer, Title III Programs, Emergency Preparedness, and Human Resources). In addition to these individuals, Dr. Wims added himself, for the area of Research.

In addition to Dr. Wims' presentation, there was a presentation given by Dr. Malinda Swoope on the topics of SACSCOC Reaffirmation and the First-Year Experience, Retention and Persistence Task Force. With respect to SACSCOC Reaffirmation, Dr. Swoope shared a letter that was received by SACSCOC on May 13, 2021 informing the university that it is time for our decennial review. The SACSCOC Leadership Team was shared with the Board of Trustees and those members include the following:

- 1) Dr. Daniel K. Wims, President
- 2) Dr. Lena Walton, Interim Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs
- 3) Dr. Lynda Batiste, Interim Vice President for Business and Finance
- 4) Dr. Bonnie Banks, Faculty Representation and QEP Director

5) Dr. Malinda Swoope, SACSOC Liaison

Dr. Swoope informed the Board that the university submitted the verification form for the Differentiated Review Process and was approved and participation was confirmed. The Differentiated Review Process includes a modified Compliance Certification which reduces the amount of core requirements and standards from 73 to 40. The University Timeline for the SACSCOC Reaffirmation was shared and also the SACSCOC Reaffirmation Differentiated Review Timeline. The deadline for the university to submit the Compliance Certification Report is September 8, 2023.

Dr. Swoope also presented on the First-Year Experience, Retention and Persistence Task Force. She shared with the Board of Trustees that the university's current retention rate is 58%. She informed the members of the Board what the charge of the Task Force is. The charge is to provide recommendations to reorganize existing academic and student success programs and organization structures to accomplish its strategic goal of increasing its retention and graduate rates. The members of the First-Year Experience, Retention and Persistence Task Force was shared.

Lastly, there was a presentation given by Dr. Tonya Perry on the Presidential Transition Team and Investiture. Dr. Perry shared a listing of the members of the Presidential Transition Team. The charge of the committee was stated and information regarding the committee listings, four phased approach, the twelve-week path to the investiture, and investiture information was provided. Dr. Jeanette Jones, Co-Chair of the President's Investiture Committee provided additional information regarding the President's Investiture to include sharing a copy of the Save-the-Date and detailed information regarding the actual ceremony.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

Trustee Jerome Williams expressed gratitude to Trustee Wayne Watts for conducting the Subcommittee Meetings. He stated that they are looking to implement best practices ensuring that our Subcommittee Chairs are more engaged with their specific Vice President in order to stay informed and be more knowledgeable about what is going on. Trustee Williams shared the direction in which the university is moving and that the university has a rocket trajectory that is fueled by enthusiasm, imagination and dreams. He stated what is required to serve on the President's Team which is working hard and being a thinker.

Trustee Williams stated that they are forming an Association of Board of Trustees of HBCUs where they will be committed to identifying what's best for HBCUs and those areas where they can cooperate and do what is best for the institutions. Trustee Williams mentioned that one of the things they tried to do many years ago but was never initiated was the Dream Scholarship Initiative. This Initiative will provide scholarships for all HBCUs. Dr. Malinda Swoope will be leading this initiative. Another initiative that will be of focus is Suicide Prevention and Mental Health concerns.

Trustee Williams applauded the faculty and staff for the sacrifices that they have made.

## **REPORTS AND COMMITTEES**

### **1. Permanent Committees**

➤ **Audit and Investment**

**Chair:** Trustee Kevin Ball

**Committee Members:** Trustees Richard Crunkleton and Chris Robinson

**A. Action Items**

**1. *University's FY21 Audit***

Trustee Kevin Ball moved to accept the FY20 Audit Report provided by Banks, Finley and White. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

**B. Informational Items**

**1. NONE**

➤ **Business & Finance**

**Chair:** Trustee Richard Crunkleton

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

**A. Action Items**

**1. Sale of Land on Chase Road**

Trustee Richard Crunkleton moved to approve the Sale of Land on Chase Road. Trustee John Hackett, Jr. 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, Wayne Watts, Nichelle Gainey, and Jeanette Jones

**A. Action Items**

**1. *Request for New Master of Science Program (Online Only) in Food Science Business in the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences***

Trustee Wayne Watts moved to approve the request for New Master of Science Program (Online Only) in Food Science Business in the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

**2. *Request to approve the MOU between OSUM State College of Technology, ESA-OKE and AAMU***

Trustee Wayne Watts moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between OSUM State College of Technology, ESA-OKE and AAMU. Trustee John Hackett, Jr. seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

**3. *Request to Develop a Male for Alabama Education Research Institute in the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences***

Trustee Wayne Watts moved to approve the request to Develop a Male for Alabama Education Research Institute in the College of Education, Humanities, and Behavioral Sciences. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

**4. *Request to Approve AAMU Online Code of Conduct***

Trustee Wayne Watts moved to approve the AAMU Online Code of Conduct. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

**B. Informational Items**

1. NONE

**C. Report from the Faculty Senate President (*Attachment 5*)**

Trustee Jeanette Jones reported that the Faculty Senate met with Dr. Wims in November 2021, after his election, to hear his vision for the university and his continued support and advocacy for the Faculty and their involvement in shared governance.

Dr. Jones provide a list of activities that the Faculty Senate has engaged in since the last meeting:

1. **Vice Presidential/Dean Search committees.** All search committees include representatives from the Faculty Senate and are representative of diversity, equity and inclusion.
2. **Transition Committee** has outlined activities to provide support both internally and externally for the President, including listening sessions organized by the various university constituencies to provide informal input to President Wims. A report of these activities, led by chair, Dr. Tonya Perry, and Co-Chairs, Dr. Kylie Nash and Mr. Gerald Vines is listed in the Board Book. Attached is a copy of the Faculty Engagement listening session that will be led by Dr. Tonya Davis, Faculty Senate Secretary and me for your review.
3. **Plans for the Presidential Investiture.** The committee has been appointed and the plans are underway for all of the activities involved in The Investiture Ceremony which is considered the oldest tradition in academia. The Honorable State Representative A. Laura Hall, District 19 is the Honorary Chair, our President Pro Tempore, Dr. Jerome Williams, is the Chair. The Co-Chairs assisting with the effort are Dr. Jeanette Jones, Faculty Senate President and Mrs. Felicia Wilson, General Manager, Aramark, Incorporated. The date for

the Investiture is scheduled for April 29, 2022, at 10:00 in the morning. Further information is forthcoming.

Dr. Jones provided all members of the Board of Trustees with a copy of the AAMU NSF ADVANCE Newsletter.

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

**Chair:** Trustee Wayne Watts

**Committee Members:** Trustees Kevin Ball, Chris Robinson, Frank Williams and Richard Crunkleton

***I. Marketing, Communications and Advancement***

**A. Action Items**

1. NONE

**B. Informational Items**

1. NONE

***II. Information Technology Services***

**A. Action Items**

1. NONE

**B. Informational Items**

1. NONE

➤ **Athletics**

**Co-Chairs:** Trustees Kevin Ball and Nichelle Gainey

**Committee Members:** Trustees Tiffany Johnson Cole, John Hackett, Jr., Ginger Harper, and Frank Williams

**A. Action Items**

1. NONE

**B. Informational Items**

1. NONE

➤ **Student Affairs**

**Chair:** Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

**Committee Members:** Trustees Kevin Ball, Nichelle Gainey, Scherrie Banks Pickett and Austin Smith

**A. Action Items**

1. NONE

**B. Informational Items**

1. NONE

**Student Government Association Report (*ATTACHMENT 6*)**

Trustee Austin Smith serves as the Executive President of the SGA. His initiatives include the following:

- CDS/Marketing Yourself Initiative
- Vaccination and Booster Shot Initiative
- Voter Registration Initiative
- Rebranding SGA Initiative
- Diversity Initiative
- Campus Engagement / Fun Initiative a.k.a. We AHHHTTTTSIDE Initiative

Trustee Smith shared the following committees he has to include:

- Academic Committee
- Student Committee
- Campus Activities Committee
- Service Committee
- Street Team Committee

Trustee Smith informed the members of the Board of Trustees that the SGA has formally launch a Transition of Power initiative that will start on April 3, 2022.

Lastly, Trustee Smith provided an update on the preparation for election season, the Rosa Parks: Catalyst for Change Award, the President Wims Transition Team, the NBC News Interview on HBCU Funding, and the Legacy and Outgoing of his leadership.

He informed the Board that this is his last meeting and expressed gratitude.

**2. Special Committees**

➤ **Buildings and Grounds**

**Chair:** Trustee John Hackett, Jr.

**Committee Members:** Trustees Richard Crunkleton, Ginger Harper, and Chris Robinson

**A. Action Items**

1. NONE

**B. Informational Items**

1. NONE

➤ **Governance Committee**

**Chair:** Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

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



Jones

**A. Action Items**

1. AAMU Community Development Corporation  
Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole moved to approve that removal of the Community Development Corporation from the University's Organizational Chart. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**B. Informational Items**

1. *NONE*

**COMMUNICATION, APPEALS, PETITIONS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Board of Trustees Subcommittee and Formal Meetings for June 23-24, 2022**

The Subcommittee and Formal Meetings of the Board of Trustee are scheduled for June 23-24, 2022 in Huntsville, 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 Ginger Harper moved to approve the stated dates for the June Board of Trustee Meetings. Trustee Kevin Ball seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee John Hackett, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

AAMU Board of Trustees meeting minutes of February 18, 2022 were approved by the Board of Trustees on June 24, 2022.

Presiding Officer per Bylaws – Trustee Jerome Williams

Secretary of the Board – Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

**Attachments**

1. AAMU BOT Attendance from February 18, 2022
2. AAMU BOT Meeting Agenda for February 18, 2022
3. AAMU BOT Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from October 27-28, 2021
4. AAMU BOT Meeting Minutes from October 29, 2021
5. AAMU Faculty Senate President's Presentation for February 18, 2022
6. AAMU Student Government Association President's Presentation for February 18, 2022