

**Alabama A&M University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
BIRMINGHAM JEFFERSON CONVENTION COMPLEX - FORUM G
2100 Richard Arrington Blvd N.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Friday, October 28, 2022
8am**

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 Ginger Harper
7. Trustee John Hackett Jr.
8. Trustee Kevin Ball
9. Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett
10. Trustee Chris Robinson
11. Trustee Frank Williams (by phone)
12. Trustee Jeanette Jones, Faculty Senate President
13. Trustee Jaila Green-Mascotti, Student Government Association President

Members Not Present

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 08:20 am.

ECUMENICAL INVOCATION

- Rev. Belvie Brice, Ph.D. 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 Jerome Williams 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 June 23, 2022 (ATTACHMENT 3)

- Trustee Jerome Williams moved that the Board adopt the minutes and recommendations of the last sub-committee meetings of June 23, 2022 as presented to the Board (Attachment 3). Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON June 24, 2022 (ATTACHMENT 4)

- Trustee Jerome Williams moved that the Board approve the minutes of the last Board of Trustees Meeting of June 24, 2022, as presented to the Board (Attachment 4). Trustee Wayne Watts seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AS PER THE BYLAWS

- Trustee Jerome Williams requested Attorney Ron Steakley preside over the election of officers. Attorney Steakley called for nominees for the position of President Pro Tempore and acknowledged Trustee Frank Williams attendance for vote via phone on speaker. Trustee Kevin Ball nominated Trustee Wayne Watts. Attorney Steakley called for other nominations and there were none. Nominations were closed and Attorney Steakley proceeded with a hand vote for the nominee Trustee Wayne Watts. A unanimous vote was received in favor of Trustee Wayne Watts. Attorney Steakley confirmed Trustee Wayne Watts as the new President Pro Tempore.
- Attorney Steakley called for nominees for the position of Vice President Pro Tempore. Trustee Jerome Williams nominated Trustee Kevin Ball for the position of Vice President Pro Tempore. Trustee Chris Robinson nominated Trustee Nichelle Gainey for the position of Vice President Pro Tempore. Attorney Steakley requested, by show of hands, all in favor of Trustee Kevin Ball. Attorney Steakley counted 6 for Trustee Ball. Attorney Steakley requested, by show of hands, all in favor of Trustee Nichelle Gainey. Attorney Steakley counted 4 hands in the room and 1 vote by phone for a total of 5 votes for Trustee Gainey. Attorney Steakley declared Trustee Kevin Ball, the new Vice President Pro Tempore, with 6 to 5 votes.
- Attorney Steakley called for the appointment of Secretary to the Board. President Pro Tempore Wayne Watts appointed Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole and the appointment was confirmed by Attorney Rod Steakley.
- Attorney Steakley acknowledged that the newly elected officers of the Board are President Pro Tempore as Trustee Wayne Watts, Vice President Pro Tempore Kevin Ball and Secretary Tiffany Johnson Cole. Attorney Steakley also called for Trustee Watts to make two additional appointments to the Executive Committee to the Board. Trustee Watts appointed Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett and Trustee Richard Crunkleton to the Executive Committee. Attorney Steakley called for a vote of confirmation by the Board for the appointments. A unanimous vote was acknowledged.

- Attorney Steakley offered Trustee Watts the opportunity to appoint the members of the standing committees and other ad-hoc committees at the current Board meeting or at a later date. Trustee Watts elected to make those appointments at a later date. Attorney Steakley concluded the election process and turned the meeting back over to the newly elected President Pro Tempore, Trustee Wayne Watts. Trustee Watts thanked the Board for its vote of confidence in leading the Administration.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Daniel K. Wims provided updates on the following.

1. President Wims discussed Accreditations and New Degree Programs and announced
 - The College of Business and Public Affairs launched a Master of Public Admin. (MPA) degree
 - The University was seeking approval of the PhD. Degree in Social Work (2022) and SACSCOC of the PhD programs
2. University Distinctions and Ranking
 - The Marching Maroon and White Band, under the leadership of bandmaster Carlton Wright, will perform in the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade – Need Donations / Potential Cost \$600K
 - The Hundred-Seven, an organization created to positively promote HBCUs ranked AAMU #3 in the nation in the production of African American Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors (2022)
 - AAMU proudly joins a group of 20 Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leaders (2022)
 - AAMU ranks second among all HBCUs and in the state of Alabama in land ownership, with a record of 2,300 acres which ranks 28th nationally
3. Capital Infrastructure Improvement
 - AAMU Event Center Grand opening 11/5 as we host College Day
 - AAMU Welcome Center ribbon cutting 11/17
 - AAMU Event Center ribbon cutting 11/18
4. President Wims acknowledged the following hires that occurred since the June BOT Meeting and acknowledged there was on ongoing search for a Chief Fiscal Officer and Human Resources Director
 - Provost/VPAA, Dr. John Jones
 - Vice-President for Research, Dr. Majed El Dweik
 - AVP for Government Relations, Mr. Shannon Reeves
 - Chief Information Officer, Dr. Kylie Nash
 - Interim Special Asst. to the President/BOT Liaison, A. Jackie Robinson III
 - Athletic Director, Dr. Paul Bryant
 - General Council, Attorney Rochelle Conley
5. President Wims spoke about the University's enrollment status, noting the following
 - Summer 22 Semester 2,303 headcount
 - 37% increase in 2020, a 59% increase from 2019
 - Fall 22 expected increase 3-5%, actual increase 5%

- Reported enrollment just under 6007 students; with 3,250 living on campus
- 6. AAMU FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING 6/13
 - New member nominated/approved – Trustee R. Crunkleton
 - Land acquisition of 68.2 acres approved / executed and closed
- 7. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES
 - Solicited support from the north Alabama delegation and continued visiting elected and governmental officials
 - Worked with our office of governmental relations and lobbyists to increase our appropriations FY22/23 by \$8.1M and 8.9%

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Trustee Wayne Watts thanked the Board again for its nomination and vote of confidence in his ability to lead the University's administration. Trustee Watts expressed his gratitude and honor at the opportunity to serve as President Pro Tempore. Trustee Watts had no further report at this time.

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. Line of Credit Renewal

Trustee Wayne Watts made the motion to present the renewal of the existing line of credit to the board. The motion was seconded and carried. The Motion passed.

2. Gift Deed Correction

Trustee Ginger Harper made the motion to approve the correction of the gift of land between AAMU and J.F. Drake Community and Technical College. The deed should now be to the Alabama Community College System to be used by J.F. Drake Community and Technical College rather than to the J.F. Drake Community and Technical College. The motion was seconded by Wayne Watts and carried. The Motion passed.

3. Bid Threshold Option

Trustee Wayne Watts made the motion to amend the "bid floor" threshold from \$15,000 to \$25,000 and adopt the current state rules and policies to comply with the law. The motion was seconded by Ginger Harper and carried. The Motion passed.

B. Informational Items

1. Financial Update

Dr. Batiste gave a financial update of the university; reporting a total net increase in net assets of \$4,010,641.

2. First Rights Sales Option

The University has first right of refusal to purchase the property at 3812 J.F. Kennedy Circle and will consider for purchase.

3. Business and Finance Departmental Initiatives

- Starbucks in design stage (AAMU Welcome Center)
- Food and pod Market (Hugine Living Center fall 2023)
- AAMUDOT SOLAR MICRGRID SYSTEM
- Workforce Development Electric Vehicle Technician partnership with Drake State

4. University Contracts Update

Detailed listing of the major university contracts and renewal dates provided with no discussion.

5. Capital Projects Update

Listing of significant capital projects with the current status and amount budgeted provided with no discussion.

6. Facilities Update (Aramark)

- a. An overview on utilizing Aramark resources to streamline and detail the AAMU Facilities Services provided
- b. Update on response time for campus wide maintenance requests provided including a projects calendar, modified mowing schedules, skill sets training, and hiring staff at appropriate levels
- c. Process and timeline for converting the HVAC/Boiler system from cooling to heat provided

Trustee Nichelle Gainey requested a report for the timeline and response for issues reported in Palmer Hall.

➤ **Academic Affairs and Research**

Chair: Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett

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

A. Action Items

1. None

B. Informational Items

1. Board of Trustees were updated on the First-Year Experience, Retention and Persistence Committee's work to expand the culture of assessment to enhance student engagement, retention and persistence.

Discussion: President Wims commended Drs. Jones and Arrington and the entire University on an increased retention rate of 2%, also noting this is preparing the University for performance-based funding.

2. Updates from the College of Agriculture, Life and Natural Sciences Updates, College of Business and Public Affairs, College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences, and Office of Distance Education, Extended Studies & Instructional Technology were provided.

a. Report of Faculty Senate (ATTACHMENT 5)

Dr. Jeanette Jones announced the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would begin its monthly meetings with the President and Cabinet in the Spring semester and a review of the 2022 faculty handbook was under review with proposed changes expected by Dec 2022.

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

Chair: Trustee Wayne Watts

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

a. Actions Items –

1. Amend the current Board policy for the *Naming of Buildings, Structures, Streets, and other Geographical Areas.

Propose to amend the Policy by adding

g. Notwithstanding a-f above, the Board may approve the granting of “naming rights” for any building, structure, street, or other geographic location upon recommendation from the Administration. Such naming rights shall not be granted for less than five (5) or more than ten (10) years, and the Administration shall make a market assessment of value before making any recommendation to the Board.

Trustee Wayne Watts made the motion to amend the current Board policy for the *Naming of Buildings, Structures, Streets, and other Geographical Areas. The motion was seconded and carried. The Motion passed.

2. VP Jamal Ali acknowledged Dr. Jeanette Jones action item to place a permanent marker and bench in honor of Mrs. Adrienne “PK” Washington. Dr. Jeanette Jones discussed the recognition of Mrs. Washington’s service and accomplishments and recommended a marker and bench, with achievement information, be named in honor of Mrs. ADRIENNE “PK” WASHINGTON, 24th South Eastern Regional Director, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Trustee Wayne Watts made the motion to place a permanent marker and bench in honor of Mrs. Adrienne “PK” Washington. The motion was seconded and carried. The Motion passed.

b. Informational Items

1. NONE

A. 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 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

Dr. Braque Talley provided updates on enrollment, a Memorandum of Understanding w/ Calhoun Community College, digitization of student records, housing, career development services, public safety officer training ongoing and new gate at Normal Hills), mental health and wellness substation with 24-hour crisis line, leaders forum advisory committee for student leaders, and homecoming overview of highlights and activities.

Student Government Association Report (ATTACHMENT 6)

Trustee Moscatti presented SGA strategic and leadership goals, student engagement, collaboration and mental health initiatives as well as SGA highlights and upcoming activities.

➤ **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. NONE
- B. Informational Items
2. NONE

➤ **Governance Committee**

Chair: Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

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

A. Action Items

1. NONE

B. Informational Items

1. NONE

COMMUNICATIONS, APPEALS, AND PETITIONS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Board of Trustees Subcommittee and Formal Meetings for February 2023**

Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole motioned specific dates for the Subcommittee and Formal Meetings of the Board of Trustees for February 2023 to be determined at a later date by the President Pro Tempore and the President Alabama A&M University. Trustee John Hackett seconded the motion. Motion passed. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS


1. The Board of Trustees paid tribute to the outgoing President Pro Tempore Dr. Jerome Williams whose term was to expire December 31, 2022. The Board captured his tenure with a video and expressed gratitude for his leadership and service. Further the Board acknowledged the work of Trustee Chris Robinson, whose term was to expire January 31, 2023. The AAMU President and Trustees gave a personal thank you to the outgoing Trustees for their dedication and service to the University.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wayne Watts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole motioned to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Richard Crunkleton seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was received to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Watts adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m. AAMU Board of Trustees meeting minutes of October 28, 2022 were approved by the Board of Trustees on February 24, 2023.



Presiding officer per Bylaws- Trustee Wayne Watts



Secretary of the Board- Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

Attachments

1. AAMU BOT Attendance from October 28, 2022
2. AAMU BOT Meeting Agenda for October 28, 2022
3. AAMU BOT Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2022
4. AAMU BOT Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2022
5. AAMU Faculty Senate President's Presentation for October 28, 2022
6. AAMU Student Government Association President's Presentation for October 28, 2022