

**Alabama A&M University
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
BIRMINGHAM JEFFERSON CONVENTION COMPLEX - FORUM G
2100 Richard Arrington Blvd N.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Friday, October 27, 2023
8am**

MINUTES

Members Present (Attachment 1)

1. Trustee Wayne Watts, President Pro-Tempore
2. Trustee Kevin Ball, Vice President
3. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole, Secretary
4. Trustee Richard Crunkleton
5. Trustee Nichelle Gainey
6. Trustee Ginger Harper
7. Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett
8. Trustee Elizabeth Richardson
9. Trustee Ralph Williams
10. Trustee Jeanette Jones, Faculty Senate President
11. Mike Davis Jr., Student Government Association President

Members Not Present

Trustee John Hackett, Jr.

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 at 8:10 am by Trustee Wayne Watts, PhD, President, Pro Tempore serving as the Presiding Officer per Article IV Section 3 of the Bylaws.

ECUMENICAL INVOCATION

- Athletic Director, Dr. Paul Bryant 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 at 8:13 am. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Trustee Wayne Watts requested the adoption of the agenda (Attachment 2). Trustee Tiffany Cole moved for the adoption of the published agenda. Trustee Scherrie Pickett seconded the motion. The Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF June 23, 2023 (ATTACHMENT 3)

- Trustee Wayne Watts moved that the Board adopt the minutes and recommendations of the last sub-committee meetings of June 22, 2023 as presented to the Board (Attachment 3). Trustee Richard Crunkleton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING June 23, 2022 (ATTACHMENT 4)

- Trustee Beth Richardson moved that the Board approve the minutes of the last Board of Trustees Meeting of June 23, 2023, as presented to the Board (Attachment 4). Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AS PER THE BYLAWS

- Election of President Pro Tempore for the Board of Trustees
Trustee Kevin Ball nominated Trustee Wayne Watts. Trustee Ginger Harper moved to close the nominations. Trustee Tiffany Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed. Nominations were closed. Attorney Roderic Steakley asked for the Board to approve the nomination by acclamation. All Board of Trustees said aye, there was no opposition. Attorney Roderic Steakley confirmed Trustee Wayne Watts as the President Pro Tempore.
- Election of Vice-President Pro Tempore for the Board of Trustees
Attorney Roderic Steakley called for nominees for the position of Vice President Pro Tempore. Trustee Richard Crunkleton nominated Trustee Kevin Ball for the position of Vice President Pro Tempore. Attorney Roderic Steakley called for other nominees and there were none. Trustee Wayne Watts motioned to close the nominations. Trustee Tiffany Cole seconded. Attorney Roderic Steakley declared Trustee Kevin Ball, the Vice President Pro Tempore.
- Election of Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Attorney Roderic Steakley called for the nominations for Secretary to the Board. President Pro Tempore Wayne Watts nominated Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole. Attorney Roderic Steakley called for other nominees and there were none. Trustee Ralph Williams asked that the nominations be closed. Attorney Roderic Steakley confirmed Trustee Tiffany Cole as Secretary by acclamation.
- Nominations to the Executive Committee
Attorney Roderic Steakley acknowledged the newly elected officers of the Board as President Pro Tempore, Trustee Wayne Watts, Vice President Pro Tempore, Trustee Kevin Ball, and Secretary to the Board, Trustee Tiffany Cole. The Executive Committee is composed of five members consisting of the President Pro Tempore, the Vice President Pro Tempore, the Secretary of the Board and two other members of the Board appointed by the President Pro Tempore with the consent and confirmation of the Board. President Pro Tempore, Trustee Wayne Watts appointed the following members to the Executive Committee subject to the consent of the Board:

- 1) Trustee Richard Crunkleton
- 2) Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett

The Board voted to approve the Executive Committee as appointed.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Chairman Wayne Watts requested to reserve his report until the end of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Daniel K. Wims acknowledged members of the Board and the new Vice President for Government Affairs and External Relations, Mr. Shannon Reeves. President Daniel Wims gave a brief synopsis of Vice President Reeves background and credentials for the Government Affairs and External Relations position. President Wims asked for presentations on the Magic City Classic and Homecoming events, the 150th Anniversary, Internal Audit Examiner Findings, University Enrollment, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

1. Attorney Rochelle Conley provided an update on the Magic City Classic contract revisions. Attorney Conley announced a four-year contract had been signed and provided clarity on the changes; stating the language “University appropriation” had been changed to “University fixed payment” in the new contract. Attorney Conley also clarified the University will have the ability to audit Alabama Sports Council management documents from the years 2019-2022.
2. President Wims noted the Alabama A&M homecoming outcomes were very good and asked for Vice President Jamal Ali to give homecoming fundraising highlights. Vice President Jamal Ali noted the 2023 goals topped 2022 because of the class reunion donations. Vice President Ali added we exceeded our Macys Day Parade fundraising goals and we are able to send our Marching Maroon and White Band students to participate in the parade debt free. Our 150th Anniversary campaign is funded.
3. Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO, Mr. Carlton Spellman addressed the Board regarding the State Examiner’s findings. Vice President Carlton Spellman noted the University created an internal audit office to ensure internal controls, policies, and procedures. Vice President Spellman also noted there were four opinion levels from the examiner’s findings with no significant deficiencies or material findings.
4. Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Braque Talley, made note of the largest freshman class enrollment in the University’s history. The University also saw a major increase in transfer students for the 23-24 academic year. Vice President Talley noted that Public Safety has enhanced camera coverage, providing a view of the entire campus.
5. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. John Jones spoke to the Board of Trustees regarding the improvements in the first-year retention and persistence rates. He noted a 5% increase, which was attributed to the Freshman Academy Advising Learning Community at the University.

6. Vice President of Research and Development, Dr. Majed Dweik spoke about the Auburn University President's visit with President Wims and the budding partnership with Auburn Huntsville for the purpose of research.
7. President Daniel Wims exercised a point of privilege to acknowledge the Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner (SWAC), Dr. Charles McClelland. Dr. McClelland provided the Board of Trustees and meeting attendees an overview of the economic impact Alabama A&M University and Alabama State University have on the Magic City Classic. Dr. McClelland added that Alabama A&M University was in a strong position to negotiate for future dollars from the Magic City Classic event.

REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

1. Permanent Committees

➤ Business and Finance

Chair: Trustee Richard Crunkleton

Committee Members: Trustees John Hackett, Kevin Ball, and Ginger Harper

A. Action Items

1. Line of Credit

Trustee Tiffany Cole moved to approve the University's line of credit increase. The motion was seconded by Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett. The motion passed.

B. Informational Items

1. None

➤ Academic Affairs and Research

Chair: Trustee Scherrie Banks Pickett

Committee Members: Trustees John Hackett Jr., Nichelle Gainey, Jeanette Jones

The Board of Trustees took the following action items as nominations from the Academic Affairs Sub-Committee therefore no seconds were needed.

A. Action Items

1. Ratify the MOU between AAMU and Huntsville City Schools Board of Education signed on July 31, 2023. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to ratify the MOU between AAMU and Huntsville City Schools Board of Education. The motion passed.
2. Enter into a MOU with Girls Incorporated of Huntsville for the creation of STEM Center on the campus of AAMU. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into an MOU with Girls Incorporated of Huntsville. The motion passed.
3. Enter into an MOU with Ross University School of Medicine to collaborate on admissions for AAMU Students. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into an MOU with Ross University School of Medicine. The motion passed.

4. Enter into a MOU with Albany State University to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Albany State University. The motion passed.
5. Enter into a MOU with Benedict College to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Benedict College. The motion passed.
6. Enter into a MOU with Fort Valley State University to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Fort Valley State University. The motion passed.
7. Enter into a MOU with Lane College to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Lane College. The motion passed.
8. Enter into a MOU with LeMoyne-Owen College to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with LeMoyne-Owen College. The motion passed.
9. Enter into a MOU with Mississippi State Valley University to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Mississippi State Valley University. The motion passed.
10. Enter into a MOU with Paine College to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Paine College. The motion passed.
11. Enter into a MOU with Philander Smith College to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Philander Smith College. The motion passed.
12. Enter into a MOU with Tougaloo College to facilitate admission of qualified graduates in the School of Graduate Studies. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Tougaloo College. The motion passed.
13. Enter into a MOU with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the advancement of environmental education for AAMU Students. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve entering into a MOU with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The motion passed.

B. Informational Items

1. None

➤ **Research**

a. Action Items

1. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve the Export Control Policy.
Trustee Elizabeth Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Trustee Tiffany Cole moved to table the Intellectual Property Policy.
Trustee Elizabeth Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- C. Report of Faculty Senate President** – The Faculty Senate President, Trustee Jeanette Jones welcomed the new members of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Jones also provided a review of the justification for the recommendation to name the Game Clock Table in honor of Mr. Erskine L. Valrie.

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

Chair: Trustee Wayne Watts

Committee Members: Trustees Kevin Ball, Richard Crunkleton

A. Actions Items

1. Trustee Scherrie Pickett moved to approve Naming of the Game Clock Table in honor of Mr. Erskine L. Valrie. Trustee Richard Crunkleton seconded the motion.
The motion carried.

D. Informational Items

1. None

➤ **Information Technology Services**

a. Action Items

1. NONE

b. Informational Items

1. NONE

➤ **Athletics**

Co-Chairs: Trustees Kevin Ball

Committee Members: Trustees Nichelle Gainey, 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 Kevin Ball, Nichelle Gainey, Scherrie Banks Pickett, Mike Davis, Jr.

A. Action Items

1. None

B. Informational Items

1. None

C. Student Government Association Report – The Student Government Association President, Trustee Mike Davis, Jr. provided a recap of the student government administrations activities and events to include leadership retreat, student welcome experience, and current initiatives.

➤ **Audit and Investment**

Chair: Trustee Kevin Ball

Committee Members: Trustee Richard Crunkleton

A. Action Items

1. Trustee Richard Crunkleton moved to accept the Banks, Finley, and White FY 2022 External Audit. Trustee Kevin Ball seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Informational Items

1. None

2. Ad Hoc Committees

➤ **Buildings and Grounds**

Chair: Trustee John Hackett Jr.

Committee Members: Trustees Ginger Harper and Richard Crunkleton

A. Action Items – None

B. Informational Items – None

➤ **Green Initiatives**

Chair: Trustee Ginger Harper

Committee Members: Mike Davis, Jr.

A. Action Items – None

B. Informational Items – None

➤ **International Initiatives and Affairs**

Chair: Trustee Nichelle Gainey

Committee Members: Trustee Tiffany Cole

A. Action Items – None

B. Informational Items – None

➤ **Governance Committee**

Chair: Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

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

A. Action Items

1. Trustee Tiffany Cole moved to approve amendment to the By-laws of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Ginger Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Trustee Tiffany Cole moved to approve establishment of a Governmental Affairs and External Relations Subcommittee. Trustee Ralph Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Informational Items – None

COMMUNICATIONS, APPEALS, AND PETITIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Board of Trustees Subcommittee and Formal Meetings for February 2024.** Trustee Tiffany Cole moved to approve the proposed dates for the Subcommittee and Formal Meetings of the Board of Trustees scheduled for February 15 - 16 in Huntsville, Alabama. Trustee Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried. Executive Orders and Executive Committee are empowered to change the date or location.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:54 a.m. Attorney Roderic Steakley announced that the Board of Trustees would go into Executive session for the purpose of advisement from Council within the Alabama law. The executive session ended at 11:06 a.m. and the Board of Trustees meeting resumed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Pro Tempore, Trustee Wayne Watts, took the opportunity to address the members of the Board of Trustees and the Board meeting attendees. Trustee Watts spoke on the incredible and unprecedented happenings at Alabama A&M University, such as the presentation given in-person by the State Examiners, which he iterated was an atypical practice. Trustee Watts further commented the Examiner's presence spoke to the good rapport between Alabama A&M and the Examiner's Office.

Trustee Elizabeth Richardson and Trustee Ralph Williams thanked all at Alabama A&M for working with the community through partnerships. Trustee Scherrie Pickett added a thank you to the Office of Student Affairs for all the efforts being made for first year students.

ADJOURNMENT

President Pro Tempore Wayne Watts requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Elizabeth Richardson seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was received and the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

AAMU Board of Trustees meeting minutes of June 23, 2023 were approved by the Board of Trustees on October 27, 2023.



Presiding officer per Bylaws- Trustee Wayne Watts



Secretary of the Board- Trustee Tiffany Johnson Cole

Attachments

1. AAMU BOT Attendance from October 27, 2023
2. AAMU BOT Meeting Agenda for October 27, 2023
3. AAMU BOT Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2023
4. AAMU BOT Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2023