

FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Rudolph Jones Student Center Multipurpose Room and via ZOOM
December 10, 2020
1:30 p.m.

The Fayetteville State University Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1:31 p.m. in the Rudolph Jones Student Center Multipurpose Room 242 and via ZOOM. Chairman Stuart Augustine presided. Mr. Wendell Phillips, Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, delivered the invocation.

ROLL CALL

The following trustees were in attendance: Glenn Adams, Richard C. Adams, Valencia Applewhite, Stuart Augustine, Jonathan Charleston, Sydney Harris, Warren McDonald, John McFadyen, Sherida McMullan, Brandon Phillips, Brenda Timberlake, and Will Warner. Trustee John Douglas English was not in attendance. (See Addendum A)

Before proceeding into the main portion of the meeting, Chairman Augustine read the State Government Ethics Act to remind all members of the Board of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Glenn Adams and properly seconded by Trustee Brandon Phillips that the minutes of the Board meeting held September 24, 2020, be accepted as printed. *The motion carried.* (See Addendum A)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business and Finance Committee – Trustee Brandon Phillips, Chair
Chairman Phillips made a motion to allow Fayetteville State University to increase tuition and fees for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Trustee Jonathan Charleston second the motion. *The motion carried.* (See Addendum A)

Chairman Phillips asked for approval of the Board to allow the university to lease space in the Lyons Science building at a rate of \$4,166.67 per month or the current market rate, whichever is higher for a period of 18-24 months. JUUL, Inc. is seeking to lease 100 square feet of space in Lyons Science to house a liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometer for research purposes. JUUL is based in San Francisco, however, the researcher lives in North Carolina.

Trustee Glenn Adams opposed the motion. He is a non-smoker and isn't at all happy with the e-cigarette—what it represents and its relationship with students, especially on campus. Trustee Adams would also like to know what the research entails.

Trustee Phillips stated that monies the university would receive would go toward much needed equipment for the chemistry department. Leasing space is the main foci. The researcher will come on campus every six weeks.

Trustee Glenn Adams stated all pertinent information regarding this request should be made available to everyone on the committee. Chairman Phillips stated that he will provide information and call a special meeting the following week.

Although Trustee McDonald is not in favor of e-cigarettes, he stated that this kind of research is common. Safety and ethics are key; research is valuable.

Trustee Charleston asked, "If Business and Finance approves, will the full board have to also approve?" The answer was yes, but the Board can give authority to the committee.

Trustee Glenn Adams stated that this action item is bigger than the lease agreement with a company who goes against the grain for what we advocate. We've been talking about health disparities, especially in the HBCU community. Trustee Adams is against what JUUL (e-cigarettes) represents in general.

Trustee Charleston made a motion that the Board give authority to the Business and Finance Committee to enter into lease agreement with JUUL if request is agreed upon. Trustee Warren McDonald second the motion. (See Addendum A)

STUDENT REPORT

Trustee Sydney Harris stated that the SGA's October initiatives included WIDU's "A Nation of Sisters," march to the polls, and a Halloween door decoration competition put on by the Freshman Class Council. Ninety-three percent of students are registered to vote.

During the month of November, the SGA participated in several virtual events (due to COVID) while also participating in some in-person events, in which social distancing was practiced. The SGA hosted some noteworthy guests that came to campus or visited virtually that included the former Mr. FSU, actor and FSU alumnus, Mr. Affion Crockett; actor and television personality, Terrance J; FSU alumnus, Mr. Jermaine Pittman; and SGA President and Board of Trustee member, Ms. Sydney Harris. Also, the SGA sponsored an election night watch party with prizes for all Bronco voters, other game night and inspiration events that engaged students during this COVID period.

Spring 2021 will be a busy semester. One of SGA's proposed initiatives is to talk about graduation and increasing academic assistance.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Interim Chancellor Valentine shared end of the semester updates that includes enrollment, retention, COVID-19 cases, the Meharry Initiative, and forthcoming opportunities.

She stated that we have maintained good enrollment with a 97% retention rate for the fall 2020 semester. It is expected that we will have a nice class size for spring. Graduate students are also doing well with enrollment.

There have been lots of interest throughout the state in the Meharry Medical School Initiative. This is a 3+3+3 curriculum in which students take three years of pre-med at Fayetteville State University, three years of medical school at Meharry, and three years of residency in Cumberland County. The progress to date includes television and news media promotions. The initiative has also been shared across the state with members of the NC Alliance for Health Professions Diversity, various AHEC groups, health departments, college recruiters, community colleges and universities. A Townhall meeting with high school guidance counselors will be held on December 14th. Sixteen to 18 students have enrolled in the program, and Dr. Ashok Jain, a local physician, plans to help with recruitment.

Through the CARES ACT, \$12.7 million received, with \$7.6 million for HBCU funding. This funding supported reimbursement of students' unused residence and dining costs; assisted students with ITS needs and returning home; and the purchase of PPE—hand sanitation stations, and sneeze guards. Representative Soska was pleased at how FSU used the resources.

Interim Chancellor Valentine shared several ways the CARES research will help facilitate the work faculty is engaged in and the impact it will have on COVID-19 research. Dr. Valentine introduced Dr. Anfu Arhin, Interim Dean of College Health, Science, and Technology, who shared activities that the Nursing Department has been engaged in utilizing CARES ACT funding.

Dr. Arhin stated that they received \$6 million to conduct innovative research in examining the correlation between socio-demographic variables and health promotion behaviors, the detection of SARS COV-2, social vulnerability, antiviral nanoparticle coating to extend the lifecycle of PPE, and a retinal prototype pilot to name a few. Much of the funds spent went toward work spearheaded by Nursing. Also, the department purchased a RV, set up to be used as a clinic for testing. It will be used to support the rural community.

Preliminary findings during research, found that 2,392 COVID tests were conducted on FSU's campus, incorporating the surrounding community between July and September 2020. Of the tests given, 165 tests were positive (higher than was hoped for). Most importantly, males were most likely to test positive for SARS. Continued testing on

campus will continue until December 30th. Of those tested, 65.3% live in the Cumberland County community and will receive the vaccine when it becomes available.

Social vulnerability research will be conducted by faculty. The goal of the study is to provide both individual and socio-cultural perspectives of the challenges that emerge resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations will be provided. A few of the questions that will guide and acquire preliminary results from the research are as follows:

- 1) Is there a correlation between health behaviors and the presence of COVID-19? Based on the study so far, there weren't any significant differences between those whose tests detected SAR COV-2 and those whose tests didn't detect SAR COV-2 based on their protective health behavior.
- 2) Is there a correlation between the Social Vulnerability Index and the presence of COVID-19? Income is the only correlation.
- 3) How has the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic influenced the population's mental health? Moderate symptoms of nervous/tense, worry, and stress were observed; mild to moderate symptoms of irritability; and mild symptoms of sad/down, feeling scared/afraid, and not being sure what to do.

Dr. Arhin stated that a bubble lab (BSL2) is in design/progress and she hopes that it will be available and fully functional by spring 2021.

The retinal net prototype pilot is underway. This prototype is a medical artificially intelligent system to detect COVID-19 through both retinal and iris eye imaging. Dr. Arhin stated that 619 eye images from 155 subjects were collected.

Dr. Peggy Valentine stated that Dr. Arhin is doing a great job leading this research team. She is excited about the research—a \$6 million game changer.

Trustee Brandon Phillips stated the Sclera project is something that other clinics would like to partnership in. He stated that there are markers for diabetes and heart disease. This project has the implications of finding health disparities at an early age.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Augustine stated that the Chancellor's Search Committee conducted on-campus visits with candidates this week.

CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Warren McDonald made a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is confidential pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Trustee Brandon Phillips second the motion. (See Addendum A)

OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in open session.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John McFadyen, Secretary
Suzetta Perkins, Recorder