

FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Chancellor's Conference Room and via ZOOM
June 11, 2020
1:00 p.m.

The Fayetteville State University Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room in the Barber Building and via ZOOM. Chairman Stuart Augustine presided. Trustee Brenda Timberlake delivered the invocation.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The oath of office was administered to newly appointed Trustee members John Douglas English and Sydney Harris by District Court Judge, Toni King. Chairman Augustine asked the new trustees to introduce themselves.

Trustee Sydney Harris stated that she is a rising junior. She's a Global Scholar and in the Honors Program.

Trustee John Douglas English or "Big E" stated that he is 58-years old and is the Vice President of McGriff Insurance Services in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and is a Fayetteville native.

ROLL CALL

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

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. The State Ethics Commission in reviewing the SEI for Mr. John Douglas English did not find an actual conflict of interest or the potential for a conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Jonathan Charleston and properly seconded by Trustee Valencia Applewhite that the minutes of the Board meeting held March 26, 2020 and the Special Called Meeting on April 2, 2020, with corrections noted, be accepted as printed. *The motion carried.*

Trustee Charleston noted changes to the March 26, 2020 minutes as follows: Page 5, paragraph six should read: We are experiencing a shortage of physicians in North Carolina. Meharry could become a feeder program in eastern North Carolina. Changes to the Special Called Meeting minutes on April 2, 2020 are as follows: Page 3, para 2 from the bottom, change non-exclusive clause to non-exclusivity clause...Page 4, para 2 from the bottom - Trustee Jonathan Charleston stated that there should be substantial diversity on the finance team.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee – Trustee Warren McDonald, Acting Chair

Chairman Augustine on behalf of Acting Chair McDonald asked for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Internal Audit Plan. Trustee Jonathan Charleston made a motion to approve the 2020-21 Internal Audit Plan. Trustee Brandon Phillips second the motion. *The motion carried.*

University Advancement Committee – Trustee Warren McDonald, Acting Chair
Request for approval of Naming Policy was tabled.

REPORT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Augustine asked Trustee Brenda Timberlake, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to give her report.

Trustee Brenda Timberlake announced the names of the nominating committee: Trustee Richard Adams, Trustee John McFadyen, Trustee Sherida McMullan, and Trustee Brenda Timberlake. They will report the names of the new officers at the September 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

STUDENT REPORT

Trustee Sydney Harris, newly appointed trustee, presented an update for the previous quarter on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA). First, she introduced her team: Kenyon Butler, Executive Vice President; Alexia Perez, Executive Secretary; Jordan Ferguson, Executive Treasurer; Dabria Bullock, Miss Fayetteville State University; and Mr. Ahmahd Moore, Mr. Fayetteville State University. Trustee Harris also shared the names of her appointed officials: Tarvars Denning, Attorney General; Tiaquan Pleasant, Chief of Staff; Qiandrea Younger, Director of Diversity and Inclusion; Caleb Heatwole, Director of Marketing and Technologies; Amea Shobe, Director of Volunteers; and Faith Ford, UNC Association of Student Government Liaison. Trustee Harris' team is called The Harris-Butler Administration...internally aka "The P.U.S.H Administration" (Perseverance, Until, Success, Happens). The SGA will stand on the principles of Unity, Networking, Inclusion, Transparency, and Encouragement "UNITE."

Unity – Promoting and increasing student morale

Networking – Promoting and increasing readiness for graduation and retention. Increase networking opportunities with alumni.

Inclusion – Promoting and increasing extra-curricular and co-curricular involvement, career readiness and entrepreneurship, especially with online and commuter students.

Transparency – Increase student government association and student body communication efficiencies.

Encouragement – Promoting and increasing positive physical and mental health for all students.

Trustee Jonathan Charleston welcomed Trustee Harris to the Board and recognized her for being the niece of Mr. Rex Harris for whom the College of Business and Economics Building is named.

Trustee Val Applewhite also welcomed Trustee Harris to the Board. She stated that she would love to join the SGA on their virtual meetings.

Trustee Sherida McMullan inquired when Trustee Harris spoke of inclusion if students with disabilities included. Trustee Harris stated they were being handled through Bronco Star.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Augustine stated that he spoke with several Trustees regarding Robert's Rules of Order—staying focused and on point. He thanked the Board for adhering to them.

Chairman Augustine gave kudos to faculty, staff, and administration for their hard work over the last few months amid COVID-19. Getting the campus ready for reopening, following guidelines as dictated by the state and system has been a large task. New curricular opportunities have come up and the university is still being proactive despite COVID. Chairman Augustine thanked university officials with his deepest sincerity and gratitude on the handling of the university.

The Chancellor Search process is up and running again. The Committee is working hard to move the process along.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Interim Chancellor Peggy Valentine welcomed new Board of Trustee members Mr. John Douglas English and Ms. Sydney Harris. Dr. Valentine also recognized

Dr. Pamela Jackson, outgoing Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She stated that Dr. Jackson has done a great job as Provost and that Dr. Lee Brown, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, has large shoes to fill.

Dr. Valentine presented a revised mission statement. The mission statement was presented to the Board in March, and upon the Board's recommendation, the faculty was given the entire Strategic Plan for their review and comments. Over 150 faculty members reviewed it with a few comments that were added to the Mission Statement. The Strategic Plan was also presented to professional staff. Over 300 staff members participated in that meeting. As well, the Strategic Plan was presented to students and parents, and anywhere from 1200-1300 students and parents participated on the webinar. In May, the Strategic Plan was presented to the FSU Alumni Association, of which they also gave input. The champion of our Strategic Plan is Dr. Nicole Lucas. Interim Chancellor Valentine stated that Dr. Lucas would present key information in the mission statement and ask for approval.

Dr. Lucas reviewed key parts of the mission statement. She stated that after listening to faculty, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders, several key points were added to the Mission Statement. The sentence that reads "***the university advances knowledge through the integration of teaching, learning, research and public service***" was added. Also, the portion of the statement that reads, "*FSU strives to meet the educational, career, and personal aspirations of its students from rural, military and other diverse backgrounds...*" was also added.

Trustee Jonathan Charleston thanked Dr. Valentine and Dr. Lucas for their hard work. He stated that he likes the Mission Statement but asked that they consider not limiting the focus on the military and rural backgrounds instead use "diverse backgrounds." By keeping the focus broad, it would capture a lot. Trustee Charleston further stated that the Mission Statement is well written, thoughtful, and something we can be proud of.

Dr. Lucas stated that there was an overwhelming response to putting "military" into the statement due to the proximity of Ft. Bragg to FSU, and as a recruitment tool to let potential students know that we are focused on their community. Dr. Lucas sited two options: 1) The sentence could read, *FSU strives to meet the educational, career, and personal aspirations of its students*. The period would be placed after the word "students" without focus on the various communities; 2) We could use "diverse backgrounds."

Trustee Sherida McMullan stated that the military is instrumental to our well-being and by having it in the Mission Statement extends an olive branch out to those communities that are often forgotten.

Dr. Lucas stated that a large majority of our students are from rural communities and with Ft. Bragg at our doorstep, we want to welcome both the military and rural communities.

Jonathan Charleston – Trustee McMullan’s statement is well taken. The Challenge is... with economic development, we can’t limit ourselves. It’s something to think about. Trustee Charleston stated that he’s fine, however, we choose to move forward. Again, he thanked and praised Dr. Valentine and her team for presenting a well-written Mission Statement.

Trustee Sherida McMullan – This is an opportunity to challenge the mindset.

Dr. Valentine stated that she is in favor of keeping the terms as they were as 80% of our students come from rural communities, 26% of our students are military affiliated and the desire is to increase to 1,000 students and increase the number of rural commuters who are first generation students. Bottom line, Dr. Valentine is in support of keeping the Mission Statement as is.

Trustee Applewhite stated that it is important to put the military piece out there. Trustee Charleston further stated that is so if we are only interested in recruiting surrounding communities. We say we are a global community, so let’s keep it broad.

Trustee Val Applewhite made a motion to approve the Mission Statement as is. Trustee Sherida McMullan second the motion. *The motion carried.*

Chairman Augustine thanked Dr. Lucas for her hard work. Interim Chancellor Valentine stated that Dr. Lucas will have some detailed information as to how we will make it work. Rollout is August 3rd.

Dr. Valentine shared her three (3) major goals:

1. Prepare for SACS reaffirmation
2. Enhance student retention and graduation rates
3. Promote ongoing conversations among various constituencies

Outcomes of SACS Reaffirmation – There will be a campus-wide review of accreditation standards and review of data collected. The 2020- 2025 Strategic Plan will be developed with input from faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Implementation of the plan will begin this fall. The reaffirmation site visit has been moved to 2020 due to COVID-19.

Outcomes of Student Retention and Graduation Rates – Chancellor Valentine stated that she looks forward to working with students to increase retention and graduation rates. Many first-time freshmen fail at least one course. At least 50 percent of students that come in as freshmen transfer out in the middle of their

sophomore year for one reason or another, i.e, not happy with dorm or some other issue with residency and/or FSU wasn't their first choice of school to attend. An Enrollment Management Task force has been established and chaired by the Chief of Staff. The task force will review the first-year student experience, retention support system, etc. with recommendations for fall 2020.

Outcomes of Ongoing Communications – Continue to communicate with students and alums through bi-monthly webinars and other media events. Chancellor Valentine and FSU were featured in several media tapings: UNC-TV, Spectrum TV, WTVD Channel 11, local radio, and others. One such taping was about the state of education in Cumberland County. To date, approximately 7,000 people have viewed any one of the media events. Alums have called to say that they have seen billboards promoting FSU near Ft. Bragg. Chancellor Valentine states that she would like to do a better job of marketing the university.

Chancellor Valentine provided an update on the state of the university as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. After spring break, students went online beginning March 23rd. Eighty percent felt that the quality of online teaching was good. There were challenges going forward. Ninety percent of funds received had to be refunded to students. Faculty and staff are teleworking from home.

Amid COVID-19, Chancellor Valentine stated that we're moving ahead with the reopening of the university. Campus planning teams, headed by cabinet members, were established to plan and ready the campus for reopening of the university.

Looking ahead while still faced with the pandemic, the university is gearing up for fall. Chancellor Valentine stated a contingency plan is in place should events change the course we are presently on. Enrollment numbers look promising.

Various entities are interested in collaborating with FSU. Some of those include Meharry Medical School, RetinalNet, Dell, Starbucks, and Thurgood Marshall. Research money level has increased. We've received a lot of money in relation to COVID-19 including monies from the CARES Act, Education Emergency and Relief Funds for HBCUs/MSIs. Our state appropriations will cover unexpected costs/expenses due to COVID-19.

Chancellor Valentine stated that we have received a tremendous amount of support from the UNC System in conjunction with planning for fall opening of the university. Donor support has increased. Mr. Carlton Spellman, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance stated that a million dollars was approved today by the Board of Governors donated by the Higher Ed Emergency Rehabilitation for the six Historically Minority-Serving Institutions (HMSI).

Chairman Augustine was excited that administration, faculty, and staff are doing well despite COVID-19.

CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Valencia Applewhite 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 Warren McDonald second the motion. *The motion carried.*

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Trustees reconvened in open session and held the following discussion:

Five faculty members were recommended for promotion as follows:

Dr. Brenda Hammack (to Full Professor)
Dr. Asitha Kodippili (to Full Professor)
Dr. Hideki Morooka (to Full Professor)
Dr. Micki Nyman (to Full Professor)
Dr. Pius Nyutu (to Full Professor)

Trustee Warren McDonald made a motion to approve promotion for the five recommended candidates. Trustee John English second the motion. *The motion carried.*

ADJORNMENT

Trustee McDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Brenda Timberlake second the motion. *The motion carried.* The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Timberlake, Secretary
Suzetta Perkins, Recorder