SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Thursday, December 5, 2024
4:00 pm

The Fayetteville State University Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. for a special called meeting. Chair Kimberly Jeffries Leonard presided.

ROLL CALL
The following trustees were in attendance: Joyce Adams, Stuart Augustine, Jerry Gregory, Donald Moore, Chair Dr. Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Dr. Warren McDonald, John McFadyen, Greg Pinnix, Johnae Walker and William Warner.

Staff persons in attendance were Chancellor Darrell Allison, Associate Vice Chancellor Kenny Spayd, Provost Monica Leach, Vice Chancellor Juanette Council, Vice Chancellor Omar Bell, Vice Chancellor Wesley Fountain, Vice Chancellor Pamela Baldwin, Vice Chancellor Wanda Jenkins, Chief Samantha Holmes.

Before proceeding into the main portion of the meeting, Chair Jeffries Leonard 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.

BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Associate Vice Chancellor Kenny Spayd presented the following five (5) action item to the Board for approval:

Action Item BF1 – Student Health Fee Proposal for 2025-2026
Student Health is an auxiliary unit funded almost entirely by the Student Health Fee. This fee supports the operational mission of Student Health Services, Counseling & Personal Development Center, and Bronco Wellness. The current FSU Student Health Fee is the 7th lowest in the UNC System and is not sufficient to respond to the growing demand for student health care. To effectively address the growing healthcare needs of our students, we are requesting a $34 increase in the fee. For the 2025-2026 academic year, this would raise the Student Health Fee from $356 to $390.

Discussion: Trustee Gregory asked if we require each student to have insurance, to which AVC Spayd responded yes. Trustee Gregory followed up with inquiry into if the additions within this proposal would be included under the current plan, to which Vice Chancellor Council provided information on the current plan and the additions.

Trustee Warren McDonald made a motion to approve the increase to the student health services fee. Trustee Joyce Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Item BF2 – Debt Service Fee Proposal for 2025-2026
The University currently charges a debt service fee to pay for the debt issued to construct the Rudolph Jones Student Center addition. Due to enrollment increases and lower payments due to the 2023 refinancing, the University can now safely lower the debt service fee and still satisfy debt service payments. We are requesting to lower the debt service fee by $35. For the 2025-2026 academic year, this would lower the fee from $335 to $300.

Trustee Warren McDonald made a motion to approve the decrease to the debt service fee for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee William Warner. The motion carried.

Action Item BF3 – Student Activity Fee Proposal for 2025-2026
The Student Activity fee funds student activities, various student organizations, the operation and maintenance of the Rudolph Jones Student Center and will fund the operations and maintenance of the new Health and Wellness Center. The increase in this fee will fund the operations for the Health and Wellness Center. The center will be open 7 days a week for approximately 85 hours a week. To effectively operate the Health and Wellness Center, we are requesting a $60 increase in the fee. For the 2025-2026 academic year, this would raise the Student Activities Fee from $582 to $642.

Trustee Donald Moore made a motion to approve the increase to the student activity fee for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joyce Adams. The motion carried.

Action Item BF4 – Residence Life Room Rate Proposal for 2025-2026
The Department of Residence Life is an auxiliary financed unit, supported by student fees and charges for services. The revenue generated from room fees covers costs for 24- hour campus staff support, facility operations, and student services. Residence Life is proposing a variety of rate changes, that equal 5.5% on a weighted-average basis. The proposed room rate increases are to assist with addressing deferred maintenance, inflationary costs and providing better laundry services.

Discussion: Trustee Jeffries Leonard asked how the room rate increase would impact the university’s affordability brand. Chancellor Allison responded with our competitive offerings and initiative that assists students with financial need. Trustee Gregory asked the year our oldest dorm was built, to which AVC Spayd shared that the oldest dorm on campus is Joyner Hall built in 1930. Trustee Warner inquired about the life expectancy of our dorms and how long we can expect the building to last. Chancellor Allison and VC Council shared that we recently had a firm conduct a housing study for the university. Details will be shared at the Spring board meeting.

Trustee Warren McDonald made a motion to approve the change to the residence hall room rates for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Greg Pinnix. The motion carried.

Action Item BF5 – Dining Rates (Meal Plan) Proposal for 2025-2026
The consumer price sub-index – Food Away from Home has increased by approximately 4% over the last year. This is the benchmark used to analyze the dining rate increase proposals. This is in line with the proposed dining plan increase of 4%.

Trustee Warren McDonald made a motion to approve the increases to the dining rates for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joyce Adams. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jeffries Leonard adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Chair
Karen Bussey, Secretary to the University