

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Francis Marion University
The Cottage – Hendrick Room
Thursday, November 14, 2024 – 4:30 pm – 4:55 pm

Presiding:

Dr. Randall Dozier, Chair

Present:

Mrs. Beth G. Bauknight
Mr. Jody Bryson
Mr. William W. Coleman, Jr.
Mr. H. Paul Dove, Jr.
Mr. R. Tracy Freeman
Mr. William Edward Gunn (by phone)
Mrs. Patricia C. Hartung (by phone)
Mr. Kenneth W. Jackson
Mr. Stephen N. Jones
Ms. Karen A. Leatherman
Mr. Robert E. Lee (by phone)
Mr. George C. McIntyre
Mr. Mark S. Moore

Others Present:

Dr. Mark Blackwell, Director of International Programs and Professor of Philosophy/Religious Studies
Ms. LaTasha Brand, Vice President for Student Life
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Executive Vice President
Dr. Fred Carter, President
Ms. Ashleigh Collins, Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervisor
Mr. Lee Daugherty, Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving
Mr. Ralph Davis, Vice President for Construction and Facilities
Mr. Chris Day, Post and Courier
Mr. Larry Falck, Director of Multimedia Services
Dr. Karen Fries, Secretary of the Faculty and Professor of Education
Dr. Jessica Gause, Vice Chair of the Faculty and Associate Professor of Chemistry
Mr. Murray Hartzler, Director of Athletics
Dr. Jennifer Kunka, Associate Provost for Advising and Professor of English
Dr. Erik Lowry, Dean of the School of Education
Ms. Marilyn McClam Mack, Coordinator of Clinical Education-Speech Language Pathology
Dr. Sharon O'Kelley, Chair of the Faculty and Associate Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Hari Rajagopalan, Dean of the School of Business and Professor of Marketing
Mr. Matt Robertson, Morning News
Dr. John Rowan, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Mrs. Elizabeth Shefton, Executive Assistant to the President
Mrs. Lauren Stanton, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Mrs. Allison Steadman, Associate Provost and Associate Professor of Theatre Arts – Costume Design
Ms. Betty Suggs, Marketing Coordinator
Dr. Jennifer Titanski-Hooper, Director of the McNair Institute for Research and Service
Mrs. Anna Todd, Vice President of Communications
Dr. Charlene Wages, Vice President for Administration and Planning
Ms. Demetra Walker, Dean of the Library
Dr. Alissa Wartens, Provost

Dr. Dozier called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, and then he asked Mrs. Shefton to call the roll. Dr. Dozier then stated for the record that media notification was made in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, and that a quorum was present.

Dr. Dozier brought the minutes of the September 5, 2024 meeting before the board for approval. Ms. Leatherman made a motion that the minutes be approved, and Mr. Bryson seconded the motion. The minutes received unanimous approval by the board.

Executive Affairs Committee:

Dr. Dozier presented to the board Resolution 10-24 for the Naming of the Dr. Cynthia Nixon Atrium, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Dr. Dozier made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.

Dr. Dozier presented to the board Resolution 11-24 for the Naming of the Dr. Regina Yanson Conference Room, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Dr. Dozier made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.

Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee:

Mr. Moore gave the following report from the committee meeting:

- The faculty governance Executive Committee will be hosting the annual conference of the National Council of Faculty Senates in May.
- The U.S. Department of Education will release the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on December 1, 2024. The Office of Financial Assistance will hold workshops and engage in proactive outreach to assist families in their efforts to file FAFSA and optimize their aid.
- 11 FMU students are preparing to study abroad for Spring 2025, in Germany, Ireland, and Spain. This is the largest contingent since the pandemic. There are also two faculty visits planned. One to the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) in Canada and one to RPTU-Landau in Germany.
- The Nursing Department's re-accreditation site visit with CCNE was completed in October. Evaluators reported compliance with all standards and a notice of continuing accreditation is expected in May 2025.
- Speech-Language Pathology's annual report with CAA was accepted for another year of continuing accreditation with no areas of non-compliance nor areas needing follow-up.
- There will be two commencement ceremonies this fall. The first ceremony will be on Friday, December 13 at 7:00pm, for the School of Business and the School of Health Sciences. The second will be on Saturday, December 14 at 10:00am, for the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Education.

Mr. Moore concluded his report.

Development and Alumni Committee:

Mr. Freeman gave the following report from the committee meeting:

Foundation:

- Foundation Events:
 - Giving Day - January 27
 - Donor Recipient Reception - March 18
 - Taste of the Tournament: Golf Tournament – March 28
- The Foundation received the following gifts:
 - John W. McGinnis Endowed Scholarship
 - F. Howard DeBerry Business Endowed Scholarship
 - First Generation Fund
- Steven F. Gately Gallery is currently hosting Jamie Azevedo and FMU Juried Student Show, until December 14.
- The Performing Arts Center will host Step Afrika! on Saturday, February 1.
- The Center for the Child maintains steady enrollment numbers.
- Local Government Leadership Institute's returns to sessions in January.
- The Fred R. Sheheen Non-Profit Leadership Institute will hold their last sessions for 2024 on November 21 and 22.

Alumni:

- Alumni Affairs Events:
 - Senior Toast – December 12 at Seminar Brewery
 - Annual Alumni Awards – March 6 at PAC
- The Alumni Lifetime Members Oyster Roast was held on November 13 and was well attended. The standard lifetime membership cost \$400 and this year they will be offering a special that includes a brick that will be installed in the alumni walkway.

Mr. Freeman concluded his report.

Finance and Facilities Committee:

Mr. Jackson gave the following report from the committee meeting:

Finance:

- Revenues and expenditures are at expected levels for this time of the fiscal year.
- Mr. Jackson presented to the board Resolution 12-24 for Adjustment of University Fees, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.

Facilities:

- Recently completed and ongoing capital projects:
 - Entrance gates/sign have been completed.
 - Design work is underway for the Forestry/Environmental Science building and the Floyd Medical Consortium building.
 - Design build team selection is underway for the renovation of Founders Hall and the science buildings.
 - Engineering workshop is fully functional and in use.
 - Parking lot F will be repaved in December.
- Mr. Jackson presented to the board Resolution 13-24 for Approval of Utility Easement, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.

Mr. Jackson concluded his report.

Student Life and Athletics Committee:

Mr. Jones gave the following report from the committee meeting:

Student Government Association:

- Fall elections have been conducted and we have 18 new senators.
- SGA events/programs:
 - Commuter Appreciation Day – November 21
 - Final Exam Snack Breaks

Student Life:

- Renovations have been made to the Student Life hallways, with fresh paint and new lights.
- The Campus Activities Board hosted a whole series of events for the students this fall including the FMU's got talent show, swing dancing, karaoke night, and video game night.
- Student Health Services hosted outreach programs focused around breast cancer awareness and mental health awareness.

Athletics:

- Men's soccer won the East Division Title. They will play in conference semifinals on Friday in Greensboro, NC. They are currently ranked tenth in the NCAA Super Region 2 and top 10 go to the NCAA tournament.
- Women's Soccer has a 10-2-4 season and won the East Division Conference Crown. It is the first 10-win season for the Patriots since 2007. They play in the conference semifinals on Friday in Greensboro, NC.
- Volleyball concluded its regular season with a 16-12 record and placed second in the East Division standings.

- Men's basketball was picked to finish fourth, according to the pre-season Conference Carolinas coach's poll.
- Women's basketball was tabbed to finish third, according to the pre-season Conference Carolinas coach's poll.

Mr. Jones concluded his report.

President's Report:

Dr. Carter made the following comments during his report:

- Dr. Carter introduced and welcomed two faculty guests, Ms. Marilyn McClam Mack and Ms. Ashleigh Collins.
- Appreciation was expressed to the trustees for passing the following resolutions:
 - Resolution 10-24 for the Naming of the Dr. Cynthia Nixon Atrium
 - Resolution 11-24 for the Naming of the Dr. Regina Yanson Conference Room
 - Resolution 12-24 for the Adjustment of University Fees
 - Resolution 13-24 for Approval of Utility Easement
- On January 22, the budget will be presented to Ways and Means. We will request \$4.1 million in tuition mitigation, \$7.5 million for the renovation of the Hyman Fine Arts building, \$2 million for the McNair Leatherman renovation, and \$750,000 for pedestrian crossways.
- Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette will be the guest speaker for commencement on Friday, December 13 and Judge Bryan Harwell will be the guest speaker for commencement on Saturday, December 14.

Dr. Carter concluded his report.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Jackson presented a motion, to provide all of the full-time permanent employees with a \$2,000 holiday bonus, to be deposited on December 6. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the request and Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval by the board.

Executive Session:

None

Dr. Dozier adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kenneth W. Jackson
Secretary