

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Francis Marion University

The Ervin Dining Hall – Hendrick Room

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 3:30 pm – 3:59 pm

Presiding:

Dr. Randall Dozier, Chair

Present:

Mrs. Beth 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

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

Dr. J. Kevin O'Kelly (by phone)

Others Present:

Ms. LaTasha Brand, Dean of Students

Mr. Darryl Bridges, Executive Vice-President

Dr. Will Carswell, Associate Provost and Assistant Professor of Music

Dr. Fred Carter, President

Mr. Lee Daugherty, Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving

Mr. Ralph Davis, Vice President for Construction and Facilities

Mr. Larry Falck, Director of Multimedia Services

Dr. Karen Fries, Faculty Secretary and Associate Professor of Education

Dr. Karen Gittings, Dean of the School of Health Sciences

Mr. Murray Hartzler, Director of Athletics

G.E. Hinson, Post and Courier

Dr. Christopher Kennedy, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Jennifer Kunka, Associate Provost for Advising and Professor of English

Ms. Breanna Lisenby, Digital Media Coordinator

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

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

Dr. Jennifer Titanski-Hooper, Director of 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 Warters, Provost

Dr. Dozier called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Dr. Dozier 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 welcomed a new trustee, Mrs. Beth Bauknight and asked her to introduce herself.

Mrs. Bauknight was born and raised in Florence. She graduated from Francis Marion in 1991 with a degree in accounting. She currently has a CPA firm in Columbia and looks forward to serving on the board.

Dr. Dozier brought the minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting before the board for approval. Ms. Leatherman made a motion that the minutes be approved, and Mr. McIntyre seconded the motion. The minutes received unanimous approval by the board.

Executive Affairs Committee:

Dr. Dozier reported that the Executive Affairs Committee met and no action was taken.

Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee:

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

- At the final meeting of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Jessica Gause was elected to serve as vice-chair and Dr. Karen Fries was re-elected to serve as secretary.
- The number of students who have applied, been accepted and confirmed their intent to enroll continues to be in line with last Fall.
- In collaboration with Florence School District 1, we are launching a new initiative this fall, "First College." The program will begin with a limited number of high school juniors. Students who successfully complete this program would enter college with at least 36 credit hours, putting them on track to finish college in three years.
- Three student travel study opportunities will take place Late Spring/Summer 2024. Drs. Kiley Molinari and Caroliniana Padgett led 10 students in Germany, as part of a sustainability travel study. Professor Travis Knowles and Dr. Nathan Harness will lead two separate travel studies to the Wildsumaco Biological Station, as part of their biology courses.
- FMU will host 13 exchange students from the UK, France, and Germany for the Fall 2024.
- The departments of chemistry, biology, and physics and engineering were awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the US Department of Education to help with acquisition of STEM equipment and technology.
- Dr. Christopher D. Johnson has published volume 1 of *Carolina Currents: Studies in South Carolina Culture* with the University of South Carolina Press. The volume includes fourteen contributions by FMU faculty and is available as a free open access document.
- School of Education has a new Dean, Dr. Erik Lowry. Dr. Lowry has been on the faculty since 2012 and will begin as Dean on July 1.
- Rogers Library Dean, Demetra Walker, delivered the keynote address at USC's School of Information Science Hooding Ceremony in May.

- Recognition was given to Kim Ellisor, Director of Financial Assistance, and Jane Snowden, Assistant Director of Financial Assistance, for their service to the university and wished them well on their retirement.

Mr. Moore concluded his report.

Development and Alumni Committee:

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

Foundation:

- Events for the Education Foundation:
 - Donor Scholarship Reception was held on March 19 and had over 200 in attendance.
 - Arts International was held on April 13 at the Performing Arts Center. They had two international stage areas, a children's area, and over 25 different vendors. The event was well attended.
 - Taste of the Tournament golf tournament was held April 26 at the Country Club of South Carolina. They maxed out at 24 teams.
 - A Sporting Clays tournament will be held this fall, in October.
- The Education Foundation Board elected new members; Yvonne Davis, Daniel Dukes, Fran Gray, and Linwood Edwards.
- The Foundation received the following gifts:
 - Paul and Ashley Reardon Scholarship
 - McLeod Regional Center Nursing Support
- Steven F. Gately Gallery will be hosting the Jim Gleason: A Study in Brass exhibit June 4 through July 26.
- The Performing Arts Center will host Dave Mason's Traffic Jam on July 30.
- The Center for the Child maintains steady enrollment numbers.
- Local Government Leadership Institute's first session will be on October 2-4. They are currently accepting applications.
- The Fred R. Sheheen Non-Profit Leadership Institute's first session will be on September 19-20. They are currently accepting applications.

Alumni:

- Alumni Affairs hosted events for the School of Education and School of Business alumni over the spring semester.
- A trip to Ireland was held on May 12-19 and 23 alumni, faculty, and staff attended. They visited our partner institutions, Carlow College and University College Cork. Alumni Affairs is in the process of planning a trip to France for next year.

Mr. Freeman concluded his report.

Finance and Facilities Committee:

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

Finance:

- Resolution 07-24 for University Budget Approval was presented to the board, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Dr. Carter reported that the conference committee is set to reconvene the following day and we could see a finalized budget before the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution, as a tentative budget, be approved, and Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.
- Dr. Dozier will contact trustees to schedule a special meeting approving the finalized budget.
- Revenues and expenditures are in the projected levels for this time in the fiscal year.

Mr. Jackson concluded his report.

Student Life and Athletics Committee:

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

Student Life:

- The Campus Activities Board hosts a whole series of fun events for the students this spring, including bingo night, karaoke night, video game night, and casino night, and lazar tag.
- Food Truck Thursdays along with yoga classes and Latin Dance classes will continue this spring.
- In April, sophomore Emily Edwards, a nursing major, was crowned Ms. FMU.
- The semester finished strong with the student life awards, the summer send-off party with the FMU Regatta (cardboard boat race on Durant Pond), and greek games. We had a record number of entries and participants at all events.
- With the UC renovations, they have been busy creating the Fox's Den Student Game Room upstairs where the old weight room was.
- Student Life staff is working on the schedule of events for the fall welcome week. The week will culminate with the annual First Friday Festival on August 23.
- Recognition and thanks were given to Dr. Chris Kennedy for his work with Student Life and congratulations were given to LaTasha Brand as she transitions into the role of Vice President for Student Life.

Athletics:

- Baseball hired Jeff Jefferson as the new head coach. He previously worked at UNC-Pembroke as their associate head coach.
- Tennis hired Laszlo Leiter as the new head coach. He is a former All-American tennis player at FMU and a current local tennis pro. Laszlo will start on July 1.

- Spring GPA overall for student athletes is 3.163.
- 14 student athletes were inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma national college athlete honor society. Students have to have a 3.4 GPA after their fifth semester and be nominated by a coach.
- 192 student athletes were named to the FMU Swamp Fox Athletic-Academic Honor Roll for the 2024 spring semester, including 42 with perfect 4.0 GPA.
- 159 student athletes were named to the Conference Carolinas Presidential Honor Roll for the spring semester, with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.
- Softball posted a school record 47-13, finished with a number 15 national ranking, won a second straight conference tournament title, and made the program's third consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance – reaching the championship game of the Southeast sub-regional.
- Men's tennis ended it's season 12-8, with a number 48 national ranking. Junior Martin Barbera was named the conference Player of the Year.
- The Athletic Auction was held on May 16 and raised a record \$105,288.

Mr. Jones concluded his report.

President's Report:

Dr. Carter made the following comments during his report:

- As soon as the general assembly takes action, we will put out an email to all of the faculty, staff, and trustees laying out the implications of the budget for Francis Marion.
- Dr. Carter addressed facilities projects across campus.
 - Most of the parking lots and roads on campus will be paved over the summer and paving is expected to start next week.
 - At the beginning of July, faculty and staff will be able to move into the new School of Business and School of Education building.
 - Work has started on the new entrance gates.
 - Next week, we will choose contractors to begin the construction on the Circle Park building downtown. We anticipate that work will begin sometime after the beginning of the calendar year and should be complete early summer of 2026.
 - The engineering workshop building should be finished by the end of the summer.
 - Village apartments will get new flooring this summer, as the second phase of that renovation.
- The projects across campus have been completed without increasing tuition for students and without incurring any debt. This is a result of our legislative delegation's hard work on securing the funding for the projects and because our philanthropic donors were so supportive in their gifts to the university; as well as the support from the governor.
- Appreciation was expressed to Darryl Bridges and Ralph Davis on their hard work, pulling all of the facilities projects together.
- This fall we will kick-off our criminal justice major and the autism studies initiative. The doctorate in occupational therapy starts this summer.

- We anticipate beginning the physician assistant program in the fall of 2026. The director and medical director have been hired and the program is in the cycle to go through the ARC-PA accreditation.
- Jeff Jefferson and Laszlo Leiter are going to be wonderful additions to our coaching staff. We believe that they will take our teams to the next level.
- Dr. Carter recognized the staff awards program and appreciation was given to the staff for their commitment to the university.

Dr. Carter concluded his report.

New Business:

None

Executive Session:

None

Dr. Dozier adjourned the meeting at 3:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth W. Jackson
Secretary