

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY**

Francis Marion University  
The Cottage – Hendrick Room

Thursday, March 7, 2024 – 4:30 pm – 4:57 pm

### Presiding:

Dr. Randall Dozier, Chair

### Present:

Mr. Jody Bryson (by phone)

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

Ms. Karen A. Leatherman

Mr. Robert E. Lee

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. Frances Burns, Chair of Speech-Language Pathology

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

Dr. Jessica Doucet, Chair of Department of Sociology

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. Callum Johnston, Dean of the School of Education

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

Dr. Johnathan Munn, Associate Dean of School of Business

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

Mrs. Anna Katherine Strom, Marketing Coordinator

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 4:30 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 brought the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting before the board for approval. Mr. Coleman 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 recused himself and asked Trustee Jackson to go over the committee report.

- Mr. Jackson presented to the board Resolution 01-24 Affirming the Freeze on Tuition for the Academic Year 2024-2025, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.
- Resolution 02-24 for the Naming of the Dr. Randall Dozier School of Education Wing was presented to the board, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.
- Resolution 03-24 for the Naming of the Robert Lee School of Business Wing was presented to the board, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.

Mr. Jackson turned the meeting back over to Chairman Dozier.

#### Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee:

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

- Mr. Moore presented to the board Resolution 04-24 Approving the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Francis Marion University, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Moore made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.
- FMU hosted a two-day STEM fair; which was a joint effort from the Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics & Engineering Departments. 570 high school students and over 200 community members participated in a wide range of hands-on activities.
- The autism studies program received final approval from the CHE.
- The FMU faculty governance leadership hosted the first South Carolina Faculty Leadership Conference on February 10. Twenty faculty governance leaders came from eight of the 4-year public institutions across the state.
- Chair of the Faculty, Dr. Sharon O'Kelley was re-elected at the most recent meeting of the general faculty.
- FMU will host six international students this spring from the UK, Germany, and France. Seven FMU students will study this spring at exchange programs in France, Germany, and Ireland.

- There are two international spring break trips planned this year:
  - Honors McNair trip to Ireland
  - FMU Ambassador trip to Germany
- Dr. Nathan Harness and Professor Travis Knowles will lead the first groups of student to the inaugural International Study Center, at Wildsumaco Biological Station in Ecuador.
- Enrollment Management reported that enrollment is stable.
- There are 363 applications for graduation, which is an increase from last year.

Mr. Moore concluded his report.

Development and Alumni Committee:

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

Foundation:

- Upcoming events for the Education Foundation:
  - Taste of the Tournament golf tournament - April 26 at the Country Club of South Carolina
  - Arts International - April 13 at the Performing Arts Center
  - Donor Scholarship Reception – March 19 at the Smith University Center
- The Foundation received the following gifts:
  - ACS Technologies and Padmaja Rao Chair in Autism Studies
  - Richard Irwin Shaffer Music Fund
  - Dr. Lynn M. Croshaw Endowed Scholarship
  - Leatherman Unrestricted Fund
  - John J. Odorisio Business Endowed Scholarship
  - David R. Smith Scholarship
  - Nellie Cooke Sparrow Endowed Scholarship
  - Sitti Endowed Scholarship
- Steven F. Gately Gallery will be hosting the Temporal Threads exhibit starting on March 19.
- The Performing Arts Center will host Forever Motown on March 9.
- The Center for the Child maintains steady enrollment numbers.
- Local Government Leadership Institute sessions are currently going on.
- The Fred R. Sheheen Non-Profit Leadership Institute sessions will be held in March, at the Continuum in Lake City.

Alumni:

- Alumni Affairs hosted a homecoming event on Friday, February 23 and it was well attended.
- One of the capstone projects for the department this year is an alumni trip to Ireland on May 13-19. Currently, there are 27 people signed up to attend.

Mr. Freeman concluded his report.

### Finance and Facilities Committee:

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

#### Finance:

- Revenues and expenditures are in the projected levels for this time in the fiscal year.
- Resolution 05-24 for the Adjustment of University Fees was presented to the board, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Ms. Leatherman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.
- Resolution 06-24 to Adjust Budget for an Engineering Facility was presented to the board, which comes from the committee with unanimous approval. Mr. Jackson made a motion that the resolution be approved, and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The resolution received unanimous approval by the board.

#### Facilities:

- The School of Business/School of Education building is expected to be finished in May.
- Redevelopment of the entrance signs will begin within the next couple of weeks.
- This summer, work will begin on the Village Apartments.

Mr. Jackson concluded his report.

### Student Life and Athletics Committee:

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

#### Student Government Association:

- The Welvista project will be rolled out on March 21. This project will provide free pharmaceuticals to students, faculty, and staff who are not covered by any other health insurance plans.
- SGA is amending the Constitution for Elections and seats, in hopes to enhance the interest in SGA membership.
- SGA events/programs:
  - Big Game Party
  - Homecoming Bon-Fire event
  - SGA Town Hall
- An SGA Aramark Committee was established, in efforts to work with dining services on food choices offered in the dining hall.
- Applications opened on February 23, for upcoming elections.

## Student Life:

- Student life has offered many programs this spring already:
  - MLK Celebration
  - Holocaust Remembrance
  - Patriot Block Party
  - Homecoming Bon-Fire
  - Crowning Homecoming Queen and King
- The McNair Institute along with support from student life recently held the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Bowl academic quiz tournament.
- 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.
- Food Truck Thursdays along with yoga classes and Latin Dance classes will continue this spring.
- Coming attractions include:
  - Ms. FMU Pageant
  - Greeks at the Game event
  - Laser Tag
  - Speed-friending
  - Student Life Awards
  - Summer Send-off Party
- The Student Life Office staff traveled to Hershey, PA with the campus activities board and SGA, to attend the APCA Conference this past February. This conference helps them develop ideas for programming and other initiatives.
- COVID numbers continue to be the lowest in the state among our sister institutions, with very few active cases.

## Athletics:

- National attention was gained for FMU athletics. Between senior women's basketball player Lauryn Taylor grabbing an NCAA (all divisions) single-game record 43 rebounds vs North Greenville on Feb. 15 and alumnus Pearl Moore, FMU athletics gained national notoriety during the months of February and March. Taylor was featured on several ESPN shows (and its website) and interviewed by media from around the country, including The Athletic national publication and the Wall Street Journal. Moore's all-time scoring record of 4,061 points has been mentioned numerous times in relationship to Iowa's Caitlin Clark scoring push. Moore was also interviewed by The Athletic and the Wall Street Journal, as well as other media outlets from around the country. Her name and record have been mentioned on national broadcasts on ESPN and FOX as well as seen on the ESPN crawler at the bottom of the screen.
- The Patriots baseball team won their first four series of the season and are currently 10-8 with six wins over nationally ranked opponents
- The 2024 softball team opened the season as the pre-season favorite to win the Conference Carolinas title and is currently 17-6. Sophomore LHP Alyssa Poston has twice been named the conference Pitcher of the Week, and has tossed a pair of no-hitters this season.

- Men's basketball is currently 15-12. They are the fourth seed in the Conference Carolinas Tournament and will play in the quarterfinals Friday at 11 am.
- Women's basketball ended the regular season 20-7. The team's second consecutive 20-win campaign and they are second seed in the Conference Carolinas Tournament. Senior Lauryn Taylor was named the conference Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year.
- The FMU Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed three new members at Homecoming 2024: baseball player Barrett Kleinknecht, cross country and track runner Paul Reardon, and long-time athletic trainer Spyder Webb.
- 193 student-athletes were named to the FMU Swamp Fox Athletic-Academic Honor Roll for the 2023 fall semester.
- The Athletic Auction will be held on May 16 at 6:00pm, at the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. McIntyre concluded his report.

#### President's Report:

Dr. Carter made the following comments during his report:

- A welcome was given to three faculty visitors, Rebekah Wada, Dr. Frances Burns and Dr. Jessica Doucet.
- Dr. Carter thanked the board for passing the tuition freeze for yet another year. The last year we passed a tuition increase was for academic year 2016-17.
- Appreciation was expressed to the trustees for passing the naming resolutions for trustees Dozier and Lee. Randy has served on the board for 32 years and Robert has served for 26 years. When we open the School of Education and School of Business, we will be honoring with the names of five faculty members and two trustees.
- Appreciation was expressed to the trustees for passing Resolution 04-24 Approving the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Francis Marion University. Appreciation was also expressed to the Provost office, Jessica Doucet and Dillon Tatum, for their work on getting the program through.
- Dr. Carter urged everyone to visit the Smith University Center to see all of the renovations.
- The engineering workshop will be essential to the two engineering programs and appreciation was expressed to the board for passing Resolution 06-24 to Adjust Budget for an Engineering Facility.
- FMU will be the first university in the state who will be able to offer free pharmaceuticals to students who qualify on bases on income and the like. We are proud of our student government for taking the lead on this program with Welvista.
- Friday night's commencement speaker will be Donna Isgett, President and CEO McLeod Health Systems. We will also honor Judge Debbie Jackson with an honorary degree, for her contributions to this community. Saturday's commencement speaker will be Speaker Murrell Smith and we will also recognize the many decades of contributions to the university on the part of Lorraine de Montluzin.
- The Alumni Awards will be held tonight at 6:00pm at the Performing Arts Center.

- Our women's and men's basketball teams are both in the conference tournament this weekend and Dr. Carter urges everyone to join in watching the games.

Dr. Carter concluded his report.

Nomination Committee Report:

Robert Lee presented to the board the nomination committee's recommendation that Mr. Ken Jackson be elected as the new Secretary. Dr. Dozier called for a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Freeman made a motion that the recommendation be approved, and Mr. McIntyre seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval by the board.

New Business:

None

Executive Session:

None

Dr. Dozier adjourned the meeting at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth W. Jackson  
Secretary