

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Francis Marion University
The Cottage – Hendrick Room

Thursday, September 5, 2024 – 4:00 pm – 4:24 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

Mr. Kenneth W. Jackson

Mr. Stephen N. Jones

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:

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. Frances Burns, Chair of Speech-Language Pathology

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, Secretary of the Faculty and Associate Professor of Education

Dr. Jessica Gause, Vice Chair of the Faculty and Associate Professor of Chemistry

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

Mr. Murray Hartzler, Director of Athletics

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

Mr. Tucker Mitchell

Dr. Michele Norman, Graduate Studies Coordinator and Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology

Dr. Erik Lowry, Dean of the School of Education

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

Ms. Betty Suggs, Marketing Coordinator

Mr. Graham Tew, Legislative Liaison

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 4:00 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 June 20, 2024 and June 27, 2024 meetings before the board for approval. Mr. Coleman made a motion that the minutes be approved, and Mr. Freeman 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:

- On August 16, FMU welcomed 17 new full-time faculty members at the New Faculty Orientation.
- Enrollment management reported that Fall 2024 enrollment is up over 2%, over last year.
- There will be four recruiting events this fall. Two will be Saturday Showcases, which will function as workshops for students and families seeking direct assistance with applications, financial aid, transfer credit and other matters. The other two will be full Open House events.
- The McNair Institute named two new McNair Fellows, Drs. Delilah Clark and Jason Doll. They will work on expanding campus sustainability efforts, through research and grant writing.
- Francis Marion is hosting 13 exchange students from the UK, France, and Germany for Fall 2024. Seven are staying for the full academic year. We have one Francis Marion student studying abroad at Carlow College Ireland.
- The Bachelor in Criminal Justice was approved by the Commission on Higher Education in August. They are now enrolling students.
- Three FMU health physics majors were selected in a national competition to receive US Department of Energy Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP) scholarships. Tyree Davis, Kammie Chambers, and Benjamin Randall each received up to \$10,000 to support their studies this year. FMU is the only institution in South Carolina to have scholarship winners in this program and only eight universities in the country had more recipients than FMU.
- The Bachelor in Autism Studies was approved by the Commission on Higher Education in August. They are now enrolling students.
- Other programs that will start this Fall are Occupational Therapy Doctorate and Doctorate of Psychology.

Mr. Moore concluded his report.

Development and Alumni Committee:

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

Foundation:

- A Sporting Clays Tournament will be held on October 18 at Moree's Sportsman's Preserve & Sporting Clays in Society Hill.
- The Foundation received the following gifts:
 - Harry Dixon Patterson Endowed Scholarship
 - Jenny Johnson Endowed Music Fund
 - Drs. Bruce and Lee Nursing Scholarship Support
 - Duke Energy Grant
- Steven F. Gately Gallery is currently hosting the Warring Factions and FRAA Small Works Juried Competition, until October 3.
- The Performing Arts Center will host The Music of Billy Joel and Elton John featuring Michael Cavanaugh on Saturday, September 14.
- The Center for the Child maintains steady enrollment numbers.
- Local Government Leadership Institute's first session will begin on October 2-4. They have 65 participants.
- The Fred R. Sheheen Non-Profit Leadership Institute begins on September 19-20. They have 35 participants.

Alumni:

- Alumni Affairs Events:
 - Alumni Affairs After Hours will be hosted in Columbia this Fall.
 - Lifetime Member Oyster Roast will be held on November 13 at the Freshwater Ecology Center.
 - Alumni Affairs After Hours/Senior Toast will be held the Thursday before commencement.
- The Alumni Office will be starting a Lifetime Membership campaign. Standard memberships cost \$400 and this year they will be offering a special that includes a brick that will be installed in the alumni walkway.
- Information will be coming out on next year's alumni trip to France.

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.
- The financial assistance portion, of the budget report, reflects the continued commitment for institutional support for scholarships and the fourth year of increased support for South Carolina need-based grants.

Facilities:

- Mr. Jackson presented to the board Resolution 09-24 Authorizing Renovations for Campus Facilities, 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:

- SGA's goal is to increase awareness of SGA on campus and get new members to serve.
- SGA events/programs:
 - "Rock the Vote" voter registration event on September 26
 - Commuter Appreciation Day events during Fall and Spring
- Senate Applications will be accepted through September 13 and SGA elections will be held on September 23-27.

Student Life:

- The annual First Friday Festival was held on August 23, with a tremendous turnout.
- Fraternity and Sorority Recruitment Week began on Tuesday, September 3. All three Greek organization governing bodies are hosting recruitment events this week and next week.
- The Campus Activities Board will be hosting a whole series of events for the students this fall including the FMU's got talent show, bingo night, karaoke night, and video game night.
- The Fall 2024 Student Activities Fair is scheduled for September 12. 40+ organizations have already signed up to participate.
- Student Health Services started a new fitness program called Swampfox Fitness, to encourage campus community members to explore implementing fitness in their daily routines.

Athletics:

- Golf, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Softball, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis and Volleyball all received Team Academic Awards from their respective coaching associations for the 2023-24 year.
- 32 Patriot student-athletes earned the equivalent of Academic All-American status.
- 69 Patriot student-athletes were named to the Division II ADA Academic Achievement Awards list for 2023-24, with a 3.5 or higher GPA.
- The number of student-athletes has increased over the last couple of years. As of August 30, 2024 we have 393 student-athletes. That is up from 281 student-athletes from 2022-23.

- Opening season games:
 - Men's Soccer play today against North Georgia at the Clayton State Tournament. They play Clayton State on Sunday.
 - Volleyball play today against Coker at the Coker Tournament.
 - Cross Country have a meet on Friday at Fayetteville.
 - Women's Soccer open at home on Sunday verse USC Aiken.

Mr. Jones concluded his report.

President's Report:

Dr. Carter made the following comments during his report:

- Introduction of three guests, Dr. Michele Norman, Mr. Graham Tew, and Mr. Tucker Mitchell.
- Dr. Carter addressed the following work that has been completed over the past six months:
 - Renovations of the Smith University Center. Thanks was given to Ralph Davis, Murray Hartzler, and their two departments for their work on the University Center project.
 - Construction of the engineering workshop. Thanks was given to the Provost, her staff, and Physics and Engineering department.
 - Completion of the School of Business and School of Education building.
 - SLED held a groundbreaking for their building, across the street.
 - Phase II of the Village Apartments was completed over the summer.
 - Over the summer, we selected contractors and architects for the C. Edward Floyd Medical Consortium building and for the Forestry building. Work will begin on the C. Edward Floyd building in March 2025 and we anticipate it being finished the summer of 2026. Work will begin on the Forestry building in April/May 2025 and we anticipate it being finished in December 2026/January 2027. Appreciation was expressed to Ralph Davis and his staff.
 - New signage is up around campus.
 - Repairing and repaving of the roads and parking lots was completed over the summer.
- Enrollment is up a little over 2%. We are at 4,112 students; which is the highest enrollment we have had over the past six years. We are optimistic over our new programs, the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy, the Bachelors of Criminal Justice, the Doctorate in Psychology, and the new program in Autism Studies.

Dr. Carter concluded his report.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Executive Session:

None

Dr. Dozier adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth W. Jackson
Secretary