



Office of the Board of Regents

**Board of Regents Minutes
Public Session
August 2, 2011**

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman Dallas R. Evans at 12:55 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr. Dallas R. Evans, Chairman
Mr. Martin R. Resnick, Vice Chairman
Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper, Secretary
Ms. Shirley Marcus Allen, Secretary
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Regent
Mr. Franklin L. Edmonds, Regent
General (Ret.) Larry R. Ellis, Regent
Mr. Donald R. Frieson, Regent (Tele-conference)
Dr. Linda J. Gilliam, Regent
Dr. Charles W. Griffin, Regent
Senator Laurence Levitan, Regent
Dr. Shirley M. Malcom, Regent
Mr. Kweisi Mfume, Regent
Mr. William R. Roberts, Regent
Ms. Andrea Carrington, Student Regent

Dr. David Wilson, University President
Ms. Elena Langrill, Assistant Attorney General

Opening Remarks

Chairman Evans welcomed everyone back for the 2011-2012 school year. He extended a warm welcome to the new Student Regent, Ms. Andrea Carrington. Ms. Carrington is a nutritional science major from Brooklyn, New York who aspires to become a food inspector.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Gilliam indicated that the minutes of May 3, 2011 should reflect and/or include the statement, that the Board review the policy and selection process of the student regent.

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It was MOVED by Vice Chairman Resnick and SECONDED by Regent Draper to approve the minutes of May 3, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Remarks by Counsel

Ms. Langrill stated that she would provide the Board with litigation information in executive session. She also stated that there is no new litigation against the University.

Report of the President

Personnel Moves

President Wilson introduced the new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Adele Newson-Horst, and stated that she comes as a result of a national search by Provost Robinson and the Academic Affairs Council. Mr. Rick Perry retired as the Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ms. Tanya Rush will provide the interim leadership while a national search is being conducted.

Wireless

Dr. Wilson stated that when he arrived on campus July 1, 2010, the University did not have a wireless network system throughout the campus. This was a major concern emanating from students, faculty and the entire University community. As a result, a top priority this past year was making Morgan a wireless campus. The President reported that as of today, 95 percent of the campus is wireless. This includes: the Science Complex, Research Building, Holmes Hall, Banneker, McMechen, Carter Grant Wilson, Truth Hall, the Portage Building, Alumni House, Jenkins, all residence halls, student center, and outside in the academic quad. Wiring in the new Communication Building and Hill Field House is expected to be completed in a month.

The total project, at first, was expected to total about \$2 million, but because the work was done in-house, the total capital outlay will be less than \$1 million.

Kudos to Dr. Joseph Popovich and his staff, and to our colleagues in the Physical Plant for a job well done!

Enrollment

Last year, the University's enrollments reached an historic high of more than 7,800 students. So far this year, we are about 270 students, or 4 percent, ahead of last year on this date. Graduate enrollments have shown particularly strong growth to date, while undergraduates have increased slightly. This is consistent with demographic trends. High school graduates are stabilizing, while the population of young adults older than traditional college age, is growing rapidly. We will continue to explore ways to be more attractive to transfer students while also seeking more innovative ways to capture a larger share of the traditional-aged student market.

MSU Center for Broadband Innovation

The President stated that Howard County was successful in winning a \$70-plus million dollar grant from the federal government to extend broadband services throughout the county and into certain areas of Baltimore City. Many public entities within the catchment area to Morgan will be on that node, including the fire station on Loch Raven Boulevard. That grant also calls for the establishment of a Center for Broadband Innovation, which will be awarded through a competitive evaluation process. The President and several members of the team met with Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, and Howard County IT Manager Ira Levy, to discuss the initiative. We have submitted a proposal for establishment of a Center for Broadband Innovation to be housed at Morgan. If we are successful, there will be a number of benefits to Morgan, including an enhanced modern IT infrastructure. Our argument is that Morgan is ideally suited to house this Center because of the following:

- Innovative and enthusiastic faculty members, researchers and staff
- A diverse undergraduate and graduate student population
- A portfolio of academic programs, particularly complementary to the Center
- Current research and partnerships taking place that will enhance the Center
- Flexible funding and indirect cost opportunities to sustain the Center
- A unique geography and demography
- A culture of innovation and agility

Other universities are also competing for this Center, and the President will keep the Board apprised of the outcome.

The President expressed appreciation to Dr. Wole Akpose, Dr. Kara Turner, Dr. Willie Larkin and others, for their roles in leading the production of this proposal.

Transition of NASA/UMBC Employees to Morgan

Kudos to several individuals who played a critical role in getting NASA/UMBC employees transitioned to Morgan. In particular, the President expressed appreciation to Dean Joseph Whittaker, School of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences, Dr. Mildred Ofose in Sponsored Programs, Mrs. Armada Grant from Human Resources and Mr. Bickram Janak from Finance and Management, for their roles in making the transition of these employees almost seamless. As of today, 42 scientists from NASA/UMBC have been transitioned to Morgan.

On Friday, June 10, 2011, the President held an official reception welcoming the scientists to our campus. Regents in attendance included Chairman Dallas Evans, Rev. Frances Draper and Dr. Linda Gilliam. Based on feedback received, the scientists felt appreciated by our University and were excited that the transition went as smoothly as it did.

Grants and Contracts

Morgan has been receiving an average of \$27 million in external grants and contracts over the last few years. This year we will see an increase of approximately 30 percent, reaching \$32 million. Morgan also acquired the largest contract in its history (NASA), valued at \$28.8 million over five years. We also were successful in partnering with Penn State to be part of a \$129 million contract from the Department of Energy of which Morgan will receive \$3.4 million. In all, the University has acquired several new contracts in the half-million to a million dollar range.

Strategic Plan

The University community is very excited to have participated in the production of the next Strategic Plan for our University, and the President stated that he is pleased to bring it to Board today for adoption.

The process leading up to the development of this Plan was extraordinary. It was transparent, and inclusive, involving faculty, staff, students, the private sector, community leaders and, of course, the Board of Regents. The President expressed appreciation to Dr. Maurice Taylor for his leadership in chairing this on our behalf.

National HBCU Choir – 105 Voices of History

As you know, Morgan has, over the decades, continually produced a group of melodious voices, called the Morgan State University Choir, which has moved souls and soothed ears all over the world. In recognition of the leadership he has provided to the choir, Dr. Eric Conway has been invited to be the lead conductor at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, September 18th, at 5 p.m. in a production called the “105 Voices of History, HBCU”. This is signature recognition of the success that Dr. Conway has had in continuing to build on the choir’s impressive achievements here at Morgan. The President congratulated Dr. Conway on this outstanding honor.

Fulbright Scholars

Research shows that Morgan State University was the first HBCU in the country to have a student selected as a Fulbright Scholar. This was in 1954, and from that year to the present, Morgan has been consistent in producing Fulbright Scholars.

This year we have two students who have received Fulbright scholarships and four faculty members on Fulbright. One of the students is Ms. Ms. Katherine Lloyd, who is in Peru. Our other student is Jasmine Norman, who is currently in Malaysia. This brings us to 125 students who have come to Morgan and been awarded Fulbright scholarships. We continue to lead HBCUs in the number of students and the number of faculty who have won Fulbrights.

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The World Bank

President Wilson reported to the Board that the World Bank has asked him to be a consultant with two other nationally-renowned educators to recommend how higher education across the eastern Caribbean should be organized, governed and financed. The President stated that his role in this project, in particular, is to recommend a region-wide strategy and governance for higher education that comprises nine countries, including St. Lucia, Antigua, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, to name a few.

The President also stated that it is an honor to have been asked to participate in a project that the world will be looking at, as it will bring additional exposure for Morgan.

Making the Rounds

President Wilson continues to be as visible as possible in the ongoing quest to tell the Morgan story. He has:

- Written an editorial for the Atlanta Journal Constitution and two editorials for the Baltimore Sun
- Appeared on a number of radio programs, including Dan Rodricks – WYPR-FM and Larry Young's program
- Appeared on MPT's "State Circle" Program

All of that has resulted in the President being named one of the five most visible HBCU presidents in the country. Dr. Wilson believes that we must continue to shape and push forward our value showing that we are so important to the state, the nation and the world.

Chairman Evans appointed Regents Roberts as Chair, and Malcom, Ellis, Mfume and Edmonds to the new Audit Standing Committee. The addition of this committee is needed because we are moving toward a more complex environment in matters of higher education. We will come back in the fall for approval by the Board to amend the By-Laws to institute this new committee.

Chairman Evans thanked Dr. Maurice Taylor and all who coalesced around the Strategic Plan – the University's road map for the future. He stated that the Board charged those responsible to do two things before bringing the plan back for finality:

- Look at the costs associated and not have that as an official part of the plan;
- Remove from the plan the suggestion that dealt with weaknesses.

A brief discussion ensued as the Board heard, again, some of the information found in the Strategic Plan. The Vision Statement of the Strategic Plan indicates that Morgan State University is the premiere urban research university in Maryland known for excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service, and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global, interdependent society.

The University's Mission Statement of the Strategic Plan mentions that Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global, interdependent society. Morgan State University serves the community, region, state, nation, and world as an intellectual and creative resource by supporting, empowering and preparing high-quality, diverse graduates to lead the world. The University offers innovative, inclusive and distinctive educational experiences to a broad cross-section of the population in a comprehensive range of disciplines at the baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and professional degree levels.

The Strategic Plan includes Core Values, such as, excellence, integrity, respect, diversity, innovation, and leadership. Also included are Five Goals: Enhancing Student Success, Enhancing Morgan's Status as a Doctoral Research University, Improving and Sustaining Morgan's Infrastructure and Operational Processes, Growing Morgan's Resources, and Engaging with the Community.

Regent Allen commended Dr. Taylor for his outstanding leadership, but added that the information acknowledging stakeholders and chronology should be added. Regent Mfume echoed many of the previous comments acknowledging the outstanding job and mentioned that Dr. Robinson, the Deans and Dr. Taylor should be commended.

It was MOVED by Regent Allen and SECONDED by Regent Griffin to approve the Strategic Plan.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Reports of Standing Committees

Academic and Student Affairs

Regent Allen thanked the Chairman for modifying the meeting schedule and indicated that the committee had more time for discussion. Also, she stated that Student Regent Carrington came prepared and brought several items to the meeting for discussion.

Item for Action

Performance Accountability Report

- Morgan State University is, by legislative statute, Maryland's public urban university. It gives priority to addressing the needs of the population in urban areas, in general, and of Baltimore City, in particular, through its academic, research, and service programs. The University is committed to educating a culturally diverse and multi-racial population with a particular obligation to increasing the educational attainment of African Americans in fields and at degree levels in which they are under-represented. The goals and objectives in this report reflect the legislatively mandated mission.

It was MOVED by Regent Allen and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam to approve the Performance Accountability Report. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Finance and Facilities

Regent Edmonds also thanked the Chairman for the extra time given for the committees, and continued with the following items for actions:

Items for Actions

Amendments to Policy on Tuition Waiver

- The Policy on Tuition Waiver is being amended to provide tuition waiver benefits to full-time contractual employees (up to eight credits per semester). The University is much more dependent on contractual employees than most colleges and universities in the State. The University values the contribution of all of its employees and, to the extent possible, Morgan State University wants to provide better benefits to its contractual contingent.

It was MOVED by Regent Edmonds and SECONDED by Regent Draper to approve the pilot program status of the Policy on Tuition Waiver benefits to full-time contractual employees. THE MOTION CARRIED.

- Through June 30, 2013, the two-year waiting period for new regular full-time employees' dependents to qualify for benefits shall be amended to take into account time worked at the University System of Maryland or St. Mary's College which immediately preceded full-time employment at Morgan.

It was MOVED by Regent Edmonds and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam to approve the two-year waiting period for the new full-time employees' dependents to qualify for benefits. THE MOTION CARRIED.

- The University is heavily dependent upon contractual faculty and staff. However, benefits are very limited. When the University closes unexpectedly, contractual employees must use accumulated leave or take leave without pay. It is requested that the Policy Granting Limited Benefits to Contractual Employees be amended to authorize the President to approve administrative leave when the University is closed or delayed due to emergency situations. The amendment also outlines reporting responsibilities for those employees designated as "essential." There are also some miscellaneous clarifying amendments.

It was MOVED by Regent Edmonds and SECONDED by Regent Levitan to approve the Policy on Administrative Leave for Contractual Employees, authorizing the President to make any adjustments to the Policy when needed. Vice Chairman Resnick opposed the Policy.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

FY 2013 Operating Budget Request

- For FY 2013, the University is planning to request an additional \$19.7 million in recurring general fund support, increasing from \$73 million to \$92.7 million or a 27.0 percent increase. Also, the University anticipates approximately \$3.4 million in additional tuition revenue. If achieved, tuition revenue would increase from \$54.7 million to \$58.1 million. The Board is not being asked to approve tuition increases until after the Governor has finalized his State support recommendation. The proposed operating budget submission totals \$23.1 million.

It was MOVED by Regent Edmonds and SECONDED by Regent Griffin to approve the FY 2013 Operating Budget Request, giving the President authorization to make any required adjustments and report those adjustments at Board of Regents meetings. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Upon inquiry by Regent Gilliam, Mr. Vollmer noted that the FY 2013 Operating Budget Request is due on September 22, 2011. Regent Mfume stated that we must continue to express to legislators that, "It is the Board of Regents desire to continue its ongoing practice to articulate the needs of the University, understanding at the same time the difficult economic conditions before us both statewide and nationally."

The Board received the citation of authority for closed session, as permitted by § 10-508 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland which reads, "the Board of Regents of Morgan State University will meet in closed session to consult with staff or other individuals about personnel matters. MD. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-508(a)(1)."

This statement shall be a matter of public record and shall be a part of the minutes of the Morgan State University Board of Regents.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Newson

Linda Newson