



Office of the Board of Regents

**Morgan State University
Board of Regents Meeting
February 3, 2015**

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman Kweisi Mfume at 12:30 p.m.

Present

Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper, Vice Chair
Dr. Tyrone D. Taborn, Secretary
Eleanor M. Carey, Regent
Hon. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Regent (Teleconference)
Mr. Franklin L. Edmonds, Regent
General (Ret.) Larry R. Ellis, Regent
Mr. Dallas R. Evans, Regent
Dr. Linda j. Gilliam, Regent
Dr. Charles W. Griffin, Regent (Teleconference)
Hon. Senator Laurence Levitan, Regent
Dr. Shirley M. Malcom, Regent
Mr. Martin R. Resnick, Regent
Mrs. Penelope J. Taylor, Regent
Ms. Latichia Perine, Student Regent

Dr. David Wilson, University President
Mr. Thomas Faulk, Principal Counsel for MSU, Office of the Attorney General

Opening Remarks

Chairman Mfume opened by welcoming all present at today's meeting. The Chairman stated that he had hoped that the SGA President, Ms. Kia Smith, would be available to attend the meeting. However, she is in Annapolis interning, but we appreciate the work of the SGA. He continued and acknowledged and thanked Ms. Jaclin Wiggins, with the Office of Budget and

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Management for her presence. Chairman Mfume recognized the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gloria Gibson, attending her first Board meeting and noted on behalf of the Board, he welcomed Dr. Gibson. Chairman Mfume acknowledged Mrs. Andrea Hart, the newly appointed staff to the Board. The Chairman extended greetings to the members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) that were in attendance and stated it was good to have their presence.

Chairman Mfume referred the Board to the 2015 list of meetings, events, etc. (see below), and asked the members of the Board to hold on to the list in order that they may plan accordingly.

2015 Board of Regents Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, February 3, 2015
- Tuesday, May 5, 2015
- Tuesday, August 4, 2015
- Monday, November 2, 2015 (Election Day-November 3, 2015)
- Tuesday, February 2, 2016
- Tuesday, May 3, 2016
- Tuesday, August 2, 2016
- Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Annual Board of Regents Retreat

Friday, June 19, 2015 (tentatively)

Commencement Dates	Time	Location
Saturday, May 16, 2015	10 a.m.	Stadium
Friday, December 18, 2015	10 a.m.	Murphy Auditorium
Saturday, May 21, 2016	10 a.m.	Stadium
Friday, December 16, 2016	10 a.m.	Murphy Auditorium

Morgan Innovation Day

Thursday, March 19, 2015	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis
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Convocations

Honors		
Thursday, April 2, 2015	11 a.m.	Murphy Auditorium
Matriculation		
Thursday, September 10, 2015	11 a.m.	Murphy Auditorium
Founders Day		
Thursday, November 12, 2015	11 a.m.	Murphy Auditorium

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Morgan State College Board of Trustees, who served 28 years in that capacity. In 1953 Dr. Murphy was elected as the first African-American Chair of the Board.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Board that were able to attend the December Commencement Exercise. The keynote speaker was HUD Secretary Julián Castro.

Chairman Mfume stated that in a telephone conversation with Mr. Earl G. Graves, he asked that the Chair express his appreciation to the President and Board of Regents regarding the opening of the Business School, which is scheduled to open in late August. Mr. Graves stated he plans to join us at the May Commencement.

The Chairman asked the President to express congratulations on behalf of the Board to Coach Lee Hull for leading Morgan to its first MEAC Title since 1979. In one year Coach Hull turned things around.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Board for continuing to show up for events and activities, their participation on conference calls, their efforts when they shake and conjure members of the larger philanthropic community to look at Morgan who themselves make personal sacrifices and continue to display as part of the University. He continued and thanked Attorneys Julie Goodwin and Thomas Faulk for their legal guidance and support both to the Board and the President.

The Chairman expressed his condolences to the family of Ms. Goodwin in the loss of her mother; condolences to Dean Kim Sydnor in the passing last week of her mother and the Chair extended, as a Board, our collective condolences to the family of Mr. Troy Quinn. Troy was a 20-year member of the University family and Associate Director of Admissions and Recruitment.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 3, 2014 were adopted as distributed.

Report of the President

President Wilson offered the following summary of major activities that have occurred at the University since the last Board meeting on November 3, 2014.

New Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Gloria Gibson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, officially assumed her leadership position at Morgan State University on January 2, 2015, and has served exactly one month. She comes to us from the University of Northern Iowa, where she had served as Executive Vice President and Provost for five years. Dr. Gibson also served as Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Arkansas State University, and before that, held an administrative post as Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Multicultural Affairs at Indiana University – Bloomington.

Dr. Gibson received a B.A. and M.A. in Music Education from Southern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Folklore, Ethnomusicology Concentration from Indiana University – Bloomington.

Dr. Gibson stated that it is a privilege and honor to be a part of the Morgan family and looks forward to working with everyone.

President Wilson acknowledged and welcomed several members of the University Council to the meeting, Dr. Yacob Astatke, Chair and Vice Chair, Dr. Laura Dorsey-Elson. He stated that the President of the University and the Provost work very effectively with the University Council in the shared governance of the University.

December Commencement

The President reported that the December Commencement, the second in the University's history, was very successful. U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julián Castro was the keynote speaker, and was very well-received. The University bestowed an honorary doctorate on Ms. Carolyn Colvin, Acting Social Security Administrator and MSU alumna.

Morgan's Financial Status

President Wilson addressed the impact that the economic downturn had had on higher education across the state and nation, and particularly on many of the historically black colleges and universities. He continued and stated that we here at Morgan State University have made

some critical decisions over the last two years to enable this University to operate with fiscal integrity and stability. The President reported that the University received a clean, unqualified audit from its financial auditors (SB & Company). The President also reported that Standard and Poor's has affirmed Morgan's very good bond rating as "A+ with a stable outlook". President Wilson thanked Mr. Sidney Evans, Mr. Bick Janak and the financial management team for leading the efforts that have resulted in the two outstanding outcomes.

Retention and Graduation Rates

"Fall 2014 enrollment of 7,700 was just below our historic high of 8,000, which was achieved in 2011. This represents an increase of two percent over 2013, which outpaced the state's gain of less than one percent. The University experienced a gain of over 19 percent in freshmen, while freshmen enrollment statewide was down by over three percent. By the way, great strides were also made in the enrollment of graduate students (increasing by eight percent to 1,396 – another historic high), new transfer students (up by three percent), and Hispanic and international students (increasing by 10 percent).

Over 76 percent of the 2013 entering class returned for a second year of study, the highest rate in two decades, and the fourth consecutive year in which our retention rate has exceeded 70 percent. This achievement landed Morgan in *US News and World Report Magazine* as one of the top 12 HBCUs where freshmen return. Similarly, our graduation rates continued their upward trend of recent years, moving the campus closer to its 50 percent goal."

The President recognized the efforts of the Enrollment Management and Student Success Divisions, particularly Dr. Kara Turner, Mrs. Shonda Gray-Cain, Ms. Tanya Wilkerson, Dr. Tiffany Mfume, Dr. Brenda James and countless others for the work that has gone into increasing the enrollment and increasing the retention rates at the University. He stated that these factors also weighed heavily on the decision on the part of Standard and Poor's to affirm our rating.

Regent Resnick stated that he is very pleased with the enrollment increase and improved retention rate. He continued by expressing his praise and congratulation to Dr. Kara Turner, Mrs. Shonda Gray-Cain, Ms. Tanya Wilkerson, Dr. Tiffany Mfume and Dr. Brenda James for their extraordinary efforts.

Be Your Own Boss – Morgan Students Get the Entrepreneurial and Innovation Spirit

"One of the things we have been promoting vigorously at Morgan is that our students are the next wave of innovators in the United States and the world. He noted that students on campus have started an initiative to promote greater entrepreneurship and innovation. One such

initiative is the “Be Your Own Boss” program. The student leaders for this program are Jaime Arribas Starkey-El, Iyanna Patterson, Mareco Edwards, Chiko Abengowe, Marvin Johnson, Mary Foster and Adrien Feudjio. Recently, Stanford University featured this program on its website – “Be the Hustle, Not a Part of It.” The President mentioned that Mr. Jaime Arribas Starkey-El is the individual heading up this program. He is a member of our Honda Academic All-Star Team, a National Innovation Fellow and spent time at Stanford in Silicon Valley.

Patterson Scholars Program

“In the fall of 2013, renowned author James Patterson invested \$48,000 in scholarships to enable eight students at Morgan to have their tuition paid if they majored in Teacher Education. Mr. Patterson has since doubled that effort. We now have on campus sixteen students who are Patterson scholars. “

Dr. Patricia Welch, Dean of the School of Education and Urban Studies introduced a group of students from the School of Education that are being supported by Mr. James Patterson Scholarships. These scholarships are designed to support students who are interested in teaching. The students greeted the Board by providing their names and hometowns.

GESTAR Update

The President stated that the GESTAR Program is moving into its final year with much progress. There are thirteen students doing internships at NASA/Goddard as of today, and we anticipate upward of twenty-five students in internship positions this summer.

Dr. Wilson stated that much appreciation goes to Dr. Victor McCrary, Associate Dean Timothy Akers and other colleagues who have provided excellent leadership to the GESTAR Program over the last several months.

Morgan’s Value Proposition

“I would like to remind you that there are more than 4,000 institutions of higher education in America. Within this array of institutions, Morgan has distinguished itself quite nicely. I would like to share with you some of the outcome measures that speak volumes about the performance of Morgan, both at the state and national levels. (Attachment)

Legislative Update

The President reported that the legislative session officially opened on January 14, 2015, and he has participated in three briefings thus far. One was conducted by Senator Joan Carter Conway's Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, held on January 21, 2015, another was the Higher Education Overview, which was conducted by the Budget and Taxation Committee on January 29, 2015, and on yesterday, Dr. Wilson participated on a panel with the USM Chancellor, MHEC Secretary and St. Mary's President, before the House's Appropriations Committee. In addition, the President noted there have been several bills introduced that are being monitored in terms of their impact for Morgan.

Dr. Wilson stated that the Governor has released his operating budget, and Morgan is slated to receive roughly a \$5.3 million reduction for FY 2016. However, the budget still has to pass the legislature, so we do not know if what the Governor has proposed will remain fully intact. The Governor's FY 2016 allowance of \$90,363,419 for Morgan has been reduced by \$5,352,000 for a net allowance of \$85,011,419. To put this in perspective, our FY 2015 working appropriation is \$84,197,526. The net increase for FY 2016 is \$813,893, or 0.97 percent. The \$5,352,000 reductions include: 1) two percent across-the-board reductions to our base budget totaling \$1,754,000; 2) elimination of FY 2015 COLA in FY 2016 totaling \$1,570,000; and 3) elimination of proposed FY 2016 merit increases totaling \$2,028,000.

He continued and stated that should the Governor's budget stand, all state employees, including those at Morgan who received a two percent COLA on January 1, 2015, will see it eliminated from paychecks on June 30, 2015. It will not carry forward into the FY 2016 fiscal year. Also, a two percent merit increase planned for July 1, 2015 will be eliminated for all state employees as well. Dr. Wilson stated that we will continue to work our way through these proposed reductions, and will make decisions that we think are least disruptive to the strides we are making at Morgan.

Teach-Out Agreement

Morgan has entered into a "Teach-Out Agreement" with Sojourner-Douglass College that would enable Sojourner-Douglass students to transfer to Morgan State University should Sojourner-Douglass lose its accreditation, and its students would like to continue their degree programs in areas that are being offered at Morgan.

Construction Update

The President stated that the Earl G. Graves School of Business is moving along on time and on budget for an opening in summer of 2015. Also, we are making plans to break ground in April on the \$80 million new Behavioral and Social Sciences Complex. During the legislative session, we will be asking for dollars to enable us to design a new Student Services Support Building, as well as to raze the Armory to make way for the new Health and Human Services Building.

Football Team Wins MEAC

The Morgan State Football Team, under the leadership of Coach Lee Hull, won the MEAC Championship, ending a 35-year drought for the University. This bodes well for our "Return to Greatness" initiative, and is the first major outcome of efforts to make all campus athletic teams highly competitive.

Appointment to NIST's Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology

President Wilson has been appointed as a member of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). According to Dr. Victor McCrary, this is an historic appointment in that in NIST's 114-year history, this is the first HBCU President and first HBCU who has been a member of its oversight committee.

It was MOVED by Regent Evans and SECONDED by Regent Carey for the acceptance of the Report of the President. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Reports of Standing Committees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Gilliam reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee does not have any items for action. She stated that the committee will approve the Student Government Association's Constitution at the May 2015 Board of Regents meeting.

It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Taylor to adopt the report of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Finance and Facilities Committee

Regent Edmonds presented the following items for approval by the Board:

Smoke Free Campus Policy

Morgan State University is committed to promoting a healthy and safe environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. This policy is intended to reduce the health risks related to smoking and secondhand smoke for the campus community. Smoke and tobacco-free policies are becoming a standard to foster a healthy environment in municipalities, and colleges and universities alike.

It was **MOVED** by Regent Edmonds and **SECONDED** by Regent Cummings to approve Smoke Free Campus Policy.

After a lengthy discussion, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Faulk presented the friendly amendment to item three, Smoke Free Policy, which provided that - provisions of this policy should be effective July 1, 2015. Prior to implementation, the President shall be sure that notice is given to the appropriate campus constituencies and that issues related to its fiscal impact are addressed. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Telework Policy

The purpose of this Telework Policy ("Policy") is to provide policy guidance for a program in which certain employees of Morgan State University ("Morgan" or "University") may be eligible to work from an approved offsite location (usually the employee's home or a satellite office), a work arrangement known as Telework.

Members of the Board, President and attorneys engaged in a thorough discussion of the Telework Policy. Chairman Mfume **MOVED** the motion as amended and Vice Chair Draper **SECONDED** the motion. The Chairman continued and stated that the President shall develop procedures that address relevant implementation issues and shall develop an evaluation matrix and report back to the Board of Regents on or before May 2016 regarding the pilot program including its fiscal impact, which is – yet to be determined. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Regent Resnick requested that the record show that he abstained from the vote as he had concerns regarding the Telework Policy, as well as Regent Ellis.

Please note that Regent Taborn left the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and Regent Griffin exited the Public Session shortly after 2:50 p.m.

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Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee

Regent Malcom stated that the committee received the report of the auditors and will be pursuing the internal audit issues that are there. She stated that there were no materials weaknesses noted. However, the committee is looking at some issues and in the process of clearing them out. Regent Malcom noted that the one of the great things we have going for us is that we have a competent and hard-working internal audit team.

New Business

Veteran's Initiatives

Chairman Mfume stated that there is a real need to make sure we are up front and counted for in addressing veteran's initiatives. General Ellis believes that veteran's initiatives are at the forefront across the United States on college campuses as a means to increase student enrollment and to improve the graduation rate. In Georgia a vice chancellor has been appointed to the Board of Regents level to oversee veteran's initiatives across the system in each of the 31 state colleges. The Chairman continued and stated that Regent Ellis went on to discuss the fact that there is a real need to make sure that we are up front and accounted for in addressing veteran's initiatives and to develop plans to become a "military friendly school". Chairman Mfume thanked the President and Dr. Turner for moving so quickly in pulling together the framework for such a plan.

Regent Ellis stated that he is very pleased to report that during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting the Regents had a chance to see a plan that addresses veteran's initiatives and some of the issues, an indication that the plan is moving in a positive direction.

Chairman Mfume stated that the Board of Regents will now reconvene in Closed Session to consider items specifically exempted from public consideration under Section 3-305 (b)(7)(8) of the Open Meetings Act. In Closed Session, the Board will discuss: 1) May 16, 2015 Honorary Degree Candidates; 2) Resolution – Draft Sexual Misconduct Policy; 3) Amendment to the Policy on Tuition Waiver – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth-Tuition Exemption; and 4) Reappointment of the Special Evaluation Committee 2015 (revised). The Board may reconvene in Public Session at the conclusion of the Closed Session, if necessary.

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It was MOVED by Regent Carey and SECONDED by Regent Ellis to move into Closed Session. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Newson