

## **Public Session Minutes**

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman Kweisi Mfume at 2:15 p.m.

**Present:** Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman; Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper, Vice Chair; Dr. Tyrone Taborn, Secretary; \*Mr. Franklin L. Edmonds, Regent; General (Ret.) Larry R. Ellis, Regent; Mr. Dallas R. Evans, Regent; \*Hon. Senator Laurence Levitan, Regent; \*Dr. Shirley M. Malcom, Regent; Mr. Martin R. Resnick, Regent; Mrs. Penelope J. Taylor, Regent; and Ms. Latichia Perine, Student Regent  
\*Via Teleconference

**Absent:** Hon. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Regent; Dr. Linda J. Gilliam, Regent; Dr. Charles W. Griffin, Regent

**Staff Present:** Dr. David Wilson, President and Mr. Thomas Faulk, Principal Counsel for MSU, Office of the Attorney General

### **Approval of Minutes**

It was **MOVED** by Regent Resnick and **SECONDED** by Regent Ellis to approve the minutes for February 3, 2015. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Opening Remarks**

Chairman Mfume stated that after receiving the reports from the three standing committees and after the conclusion of any and all new business, the Chair will entertain a motion for the Board to reconvene in Closed Session to consider items that are specifically exempted from public consideration under Section 3-305 (b) (7), (8) and (12) of the Open Meetings Act. The Board will reconvene in Closed Session for the following specific purposes: (1) to receive the report of the Nomination Committee, (2) to receive and consider the Evaluation of the President, (3) to receive an update on the HBCU lawsuit, (4) to receive an update on the GESTAR Audit, (5) to receive an update on the University Patent Policy, (6) to receive an update on any and all internal University investigations, and (7) to receive information on the Marble Hall Lease Extension. We will also be receiving legal counsel on each one. The Board will reconvene in Public Session from the

Closed Session for the purpose of announcing the elected officers for the 2015-2016 Board year before formally adjourning for the day.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Board that were present as well as the members on the phone. He welcomed the friends, members of the public, and the press to the meeting. Chairman Mfume welcomed Ms. Sara Baker from the Department of Legislative Services and Mrs. Jaclin Warner-Wiggins from the Department of Budget and Management. He acknowledged the presence of Dr. Yacob Astatke, University Council Chairperson. The Chair thanked members of the Board who were able to attend and participate in any number of University-wide events since the last meeting of the Board. He thanked Rev. Toni Draper and Student Regent Perine for sitting in and representing the Board at the groundbreaking this past week for the Jenkins Behavioral Science Center. He thanked those Regents that attended the Honors Convocation in April and mentioned that Mr. David Talbert, Writer and Director gave an excellent presentation.

The Chairman continued and congratulated the President for being appointed to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, the agency's primary private-sector policy advisory group. This is the first time an HBCU has been recognized on that committee. The Chair continued and stated that he also wanted to congratulate General Larry Ellis for his appointment to the National Commission on the Future of the Army – structured to study the full army. General Ellis served as a member of command and in leadership positions in the United States, Bosnia, Germany, South Korea and Vietnam. He also commanded Army Forces Command from 2001 to 2004.

Chairman Mfume recognized Senator Levitan and acknowledged his retirement. He stated that he and several members of the Board traveled down to Annapolis in March to attend a reception for Senator Levitan as he announced his retirement after 45 consecutive sessions of the Maryland General Assembly, 24 years of those sessions as an elected official and 21 years as a government representative. The Chairman congratulated Senator Levitan for his 45 consecutive sessions in the Maryland General Assembly.

Chairman Mfume stated that we all collectively thank Congressman Cummings for his exemplary public service just this past week in attempting to keep the recent protests both peaceful and focused on the issues that our country should not ignore. In acknowledging his role in assuring safety to Baltimore residents, as well on the pursuit of justice, the Chairman stated that he believes he can speak on behalf of the full Board by saying that we thank him for his service to our city and to our nation.

The Chairman announced that May 15<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled date for the Morgan State University (MSU) Alumni Luncheon which will be held in the Student Center and will begin close to noon. The following day is our Spring Commencement at 10:00 a.m. in Hughes Stadium. The Board will receive additional information related to Commencement. He continued and stated that the Retreat is scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Marriott Waterfront, beginning promptly at 8:15 a.m. and lasting all day. Chairman Mfume requested that members of the Board inform him of any agenda items they may have.

Chairman Mfume acknowledged the work of Student Regent Latichia Perine and presented Ms. Perine with a plaque for her service on the Board. Ms. Perine thanked the Board for welcoming her to the Board of Regents and stated that she has learned many skills and met people she will never forget.

The Chair recognized and acknowledged the MSU football team, Coach Lee Hull and his staff for their MEAC Championship for the 2014 season. Members of the team present were Christopher Robinson, Clarence Swain, Chris Moller, Andrew King, Greg Gibson and Andrew Mitchell. The Chair continued and recognized the staff and cheerleaders for their fifth consecutive MEAC Championship. Head Coach Theresa Gibson, Assistant Coach Kimberly Ross-Watkins and other members of the staff, along with members of the cheerleading team were present to receive their recognition.

### **Report of the President**

President Wilson provided the Board of Regents with a summary of major activities that occurred at the University since the last Board meeting on February 3, 2015.

#### **Demonstrations in the City of Baltimore**

This past week, the entire world watched as numerous protests and demonstrations unfolded in the City of Baltimore following the untimely death of Mr. Freddie Gray. While all of us within the Morgan community are in sympathy with the family of Mr. Gray and are supportive of peaceful protests, we were not pleased with the riotous acts that took place earlier in the week. President Wilson expressed his appreciation to three members of the Board, Chairman Kweisi Mfume, Congressman Elijah Cummings and Vice Chair Toni Draper, for their leadership in helping the City maintain peace.

In response to what took place, our students were quite involved in efforts to bring about peace within our City. On Monday evening, in the midst of chaos, several Morgan students ventured into West Baltimore to give rides to many of the teenagers who were stranded on the city streets. The next day, well over 200 Morgan students went into those same neighborhoods and engaged in clean-up efforts. On Thursday of this past week, the Morgan State University football team was out and about on the streets of Baltimore also engaged in a massive clean-up drive. Finally, on yesterday, several of our student leaders teamed up with the student leaders from Bowie, Coppin and Howard University to lead a peaceful prayer march in front of City Hall. The message there was one that called for justice, a reform of the criminal justice system, elimination of poverty in our City, and a greater investment in our HBCUs.

Over the course of the last week and a half, the President stated that he has issued daily updates to the University community encouraging peace and calm. No University facilities were impacted, nor were there any serious or credible threats to the safety of our community.

The President acknowledged with pride the contributions made by our students during the challenging week in our City. They comported themselves in the great tradition of peaceful student demonstrations at Morgan State University.

### **“Common” and Billy Murphy’s Visit to Campus**

On Sunday afternoon, recording artist Lonnie Rashid Lynn, Jr., better known as “Common,” along with renowned city attorney Billy Murphy, Jr., visited the campus to have an intimate conversation with our students around solutions that would prevent situations like what happened this past week from recurring. Once again, our students were very thoughtful in identifying solutions to many of the intractable challenges facing urban communities.

President Wilson thanked Vice President Kevin Banks and Assistant Vice President Tanya Rush for their roles in working with the students throughout the week to offer support, wisdom and guidance.

### **Community Conversations: Living the Morgan Values**

Over the last several weeks, the President conducted several community conversations around campus on “Living the Morgan Values” (Excellence, Integrity, Respect, Diversity, Innovation, Leadership). These conversations were held in every residential facility on campus, and many were well attended.

We are holding our students to high standards at the University and are expecting them to live out the meaning of being a Morgan student every day while they are on our campus.

### **Organizational Chart**

The President offered for the Board’s review the latest University organizational chart, a practice he commenced a few years ago.

### **Update on Holmes Hall, Student Health Center and Jenkins**

Since the last Board meeting in February, the University experienced a major crisis affecting three of our central buildings. Pipes burst in Holmes Hall, Jenkins and the Student Health Center, which flooded all three of those buildings and left them uninhabitable for significant periods.

In consultation with the leadership team, President Wilson decided to close all of those buildings while repairs took place. The task of relocating classes was very challenging for us because of the limited space that we have at the University. However, the President thanked Ms. Kim McCalla, Dr. Gloria Gibson, Dr. Pamela Scott-Johnson, the Physical Plant, Mr. Hans Cooper and scores of others for working nearly around-the-clock to help us address these challenging issues and to restore the University to a degree of normalcy.

All of those buildings are now back on-line and serving their original purposes.

### **Signing of MOU between Morgan and the Walters Art Museum**

We are pleased to announce that Morgan entered into a partnership with the Walters Art Museum that would enable us to share exhibits, conduct collaborative research and co-publish papers in scholarly journals. The announcement occurred on April 30, 2015, at the Walters Art Museum and attracted numerous individuals from the community, from Morgan and from the Walters Art Museum.

President Wilson thanked Vice President Maurice Taylor for his role in helping to organize this event.

### **Choir Performance at the White House**

The Morgan State University Choir was invited by First Lady Michelle Obama to perform at the White House on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, as part of the “In Performance at the White House” series. They performed with Aretha Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Tamela Mann, Lyle Lovett, and a host of others. The East Room of the White House was standing room only, and Dr. Wilson, along with Dean Pamela Scott-Johnson of the College of Liberal Arts, were in attendance. Dr. Eric Conway has indicated that this was one of the Choir’s finest moments, and Dr. Wilson concurred.

Shortly after Commencement, the Choir will perform in Argentina. Kudos to the Morgan State University Choir!

### **Half-Million Dollar Gift to Endow Lectureship**

President Wilson acknowledged a gift of \$500,000 from Morgan graduate, NFL Hall of Famer and current Chair of the Morgan State University Foundation, Willie Lanier. Willie’s investment in Morgan will endow a lectureship in Business Ethics within the School of Business and Management.

We salute Willie Lanier for his investment in Alma Mater.

### **Earthquake in Nepal**

We have watched in horror over the last week the devastating effect that the earthquake in Nepal has had on that country. As many of you know, Morgan has a history of attracting several Nepalese students to our campus. Currently, there are more than 60 Nepalese students with us. The University has organized a relief effort and is encouraging everyone in the University community to contribute in some meaningful way to relief efforts in that country. We were informed that some of the families of some of our students were impacted.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to them.

## **Groundbreaking for the Jenkins Behavioral and Social Sciences Complex**

Several elected officials, including Senator Nathaniel McFadden, Delegate Adrienne Jones, and many others, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Jenkins Behavioral and Social Sciences Complex on April 30, 2015. This is a 148 square-foot building that will house all of the social sciences. The project is slated to take two years to complete, and should be ready for occupancy in summer 2017.

Also, work is moving along quite rapidly on the Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management, which is expected to be completed by July of this year. The University is planning to move into the facility in August, and classes will start in September.

Thanks to Kim McCalla for her continued leadership over our capital projects. Since she has been on board, every capital project that Morgan has undertaken has come in on time and under budget.

The Business School has been challenging cost-wise because of the rising cost of materials, but nonetheless, that project is also expected to be on time and within budget.

## **Update on the Northwood Plaza Development**

The President updated the Board on ongoing discussions that we have been having with MLR Partners, a developer hired by the owners of the Northwood Shopping Plaza to fully develop it. The plan calls for a multi-use development consisting of University housing, a supermarket, several food outlets and other shops. A first-draft rendering of what this development will entail is included in each member's folder.

Morgan is in conversations with the developer about a relationship that would be anchored in three projects: student housing, a co-branded bookstore and a joint parking facility. The President stated that he will be meeting with Regent Frank Edmonds and other members of the Finance and Facilities Committee within the coming weeks, to fully brief them on the nature of our conversations and to seek their guidance as we move closer to our vision of a total revitalization of the Northwood Shopping Complex.

## **Commencement-May 16, 2015**

Commencement at Morgan is right around the corner, and will be held on May 16, 2015. Our Commencement speaker will be the Honorable Gracia Machel. Honorary doctorates will be awarded to the following individuals: The Honorable Gracia Machel, Professor James West and the Honorable Nelson Mandela.

We anticipate awarding nearly 900 degrees during the May ceremony. That added to the 373 degrees for the December 2014 Commencement brings the total to over 1200 degrees awarded by the University during the academic year.

Congratulations to Regent Congressman Elijah Cummings for being awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by Johns Hopkins University.

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Regent Taylor presided over the meeting in the absence of the Chair of the Committee, Dr. Linda J. Gilliam. The Committee's action items are as follows:

#### **New Academic Programs**

Seamless MS/EdD Mathematics Education  
Seamless MS/EdD Science Education

Bachelor of Science and Master of Science 3+2 Program in Transportation Systems

The new academic programs will be placed on the Board of Regents Annual Retreat agenda for approval by the full board.

### **Finance and Facilities Committee**

Vice Chair Draper presided over the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting in the absence of the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Franklin Edmonds. The Committee's action items are as follows:

#### **FY 2016 Tuition & Fees Increase Recommendations**

It was MOVED by Regent Ellis and SECONDED by Regent Taylor to approve the requested increases in tuition rates and fees in support of instruction, instructional support, and other University services for FY 2016 operations. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Regent Resnick voiced concern of the impact the increased tuition may have on out-of-state students. Regent Resnick abstained from voting on this matter.

#### **FY 2017 Capital Budget Request**

It was MOVED by Student Regent Perine and SECONDED by Regent Resnick to approve the FY 2017 five-year Capital Budget Request to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on June 30, 2015. The five-year request totals \$461.7 million of which \$44 million is requested for FY 2017.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

#### **Policy on Student Residency Classification for Admission and Tuition Purposes**

It was MOVED Regent Ellis and SECONDED by Regent Taylor to approve the Policy on Student Residency Classification for Admission and Tuition Purposes. The University was notified by MHEC that it must comply with Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, In-State Tuition Rate for Veterans by March 31, 2015. In order to continue to be eligible to receive payments for any students eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill, the University must expand its policy on in-state tuition to allow in-state tuition for veterans as well as veterans' spouses and children under certain conditions. THE MOTION CARRIED.

### **Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee**

There were no action items for the Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee.

It MOVED by Regent Resnick and SECONDED by Vice Chair Draper to reconvene in Closed Session. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

### **Public Session Two**

The Board of Regents reconvened in Public Session at 2:15 p.m. At this time, the Chairman announced that the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers for the 2015-2016 Academic Year will remain the same, Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman, Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper, Vice Chair and Dr. Tyrone Taborn, Secretary.

It was MOVED by Regents Resnick and Taylor and SECONDED by Student Regent Perine to reconvene in Closed Session. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The Public Session adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Regent Malcom exited the call at 3:01 p.m. EST. Regent Levitan exited the call at 4:02 p.m., followed by Regent Ellis's departure at 4:06 p.m.

The Board of Regents meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Newson