

Public Session Minutes

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman Kweisi Mfume at 12:04 p.m.

Present: Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman, Regent; General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Vice Chair, Regent; Ms. McCall Brown, Student Regent; Dr. Harold Carter, Regent; Dr. Linda Gilliam, Regent; Dr. Burney Hollis, Regent; Ms. Emily Hunter, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, Regent; Mr. Wayne Resnick, Regent; Ms. Shelonda Stokes, Regent; Mr. Carl Turnipseed, Regent; Dr. Marquis Walker, Regent; Mr. Winston Wilkinson, Regent; Dr. David Wilson, University President; Mr. Thomas Faulk, Principal Counsel for Morgan State University, Office of the Attorney General

Absent: Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Secretary, Regent

Minutes

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion to adopt the minutes from the May 4, 2021 Board meeting. It was MOVED by Regent Turnipseed and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Regents and members of the public in attendance. The Chairman offered an overview of the agenda and stated that following the Public Session, the Board would convene in Closed Session to address the matters identified as such on the agenda.

The Chairman formally seated and introduced two new Regents – Ms. Emily Hunter and Ms. McCall Brown. He read their bios and welcomed them both on behalf of the entire Board. He then yielded the floor to each new Regent for brief remarks.

Regent Hunter thanked the Chairman for the gracious introduction. She stated that she is delighted to be here, to serve and learn from each Board member, and looks forward to this experience. She thanked each member in advance for answering all the questions that she will have and for teaching her everything that they know.

Regent Brown thanked Chairman Mfume, Dr. Wilson and the Board for their kind words. She stated that she is excited to serve the community in a unique and important way and looks forward to working with the Board in her final year at Morgan.

Rescinding Special Presidential Resolution

Chairman Mfume stated that the Board is hereby rescinding the Special Resolution that was approved in March 2020 as a result of the declared state of emergency enacted by Governor Hogan due to the COVID pandemic. The resolution is being rescinded because the state of emergency concluded on July 1st and was only binding and in effect as long as there was a state of emergency. He thanked Dr. Wilson for abiding by the terms of the resolution and following through on the reporting mechanisms during that time.

Resolutions for Outstanding Service and Contributions

The Chairman yielded the floor to Regent Hollis to read into the record the formal Resolution Recognizing the Outstanding Service and Central Roles of Dean Kim Sydnor and Associate Dean Anita Hawkins in the Planning, Execution and Monitoring of the COVID-19 Pandemic Plans as well as the Resolution Recognizing the Outstanding Contributions of Dr. Earl Richardson to the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education.

On behalf of the entire Board, Chairman Mfume thanked Dean Sydnor and Associate Dean Hawkins for their leadership and guidance over the past year during the pandemic as well as the work of Dr. Richardson,

particularly as it relates to the coalition case that began back in 2006 and ultimately resulted in the unprecedented award of \$577 million to the four HBCUs in Maryland.

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion to adopt the two Resolutions. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Carter. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Board Appointments for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

The Chairman appointed Regents Hunter and Brown to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Regent Gilliam. Regent Brown was also appointed to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Regent Wilkinson. The Chairman appointed Regent Gilliam to serve as Chair of the Evaluation Committee, replacing Regent Walker.

Report of the President

Dr. Wilson provided a report to the Board covering some major developments that occurred at the University since the last meeting in May 2021. Those highlights include: (a) new Dean appointed to the School of Global Journalism and Communication; (b) Provost selection pending (three finalists); (c) plans for fall 2021 reopening – COVID testing and required vaccination with a decision on indoor masking to be made by August 14th; (d) fall 2021 instruction – modified version of Hy-Flex called Morgan-Flex (e) fall 2021 housing plans – 3,100 students assigned, 270 off-campus and 300+ waitlisted with plans to house students on campus and at Marble Hall Gardens, HH Midtown and Morgan View (negotiations underway for two other possible locations); (f) New Thurgood Marshall Residency and Dining facility to open in 2022 with 670 beds; (g) augmenting staff in the Counseling and Wellness Center to focus on mental well-being; (h) resocialization and re-acculturation planned events and activities; (i) public safety and campus readiness plans; (j) Northwood Shopping Center update; (k) University investment in student financial assistance; (l) plans for HBCU special state allocation – \$15.1 million in FY 2023; (m) strategic roadmap for the next decade; and (n) upcoming events.

Chairman Mfume thanked Dr. Wilson for his report. He asked that the final portion (Athletics Update) be discussed under New Business.

Report of the Executive Committee

The Chairman provided an update from the July 29, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. He stated that the Committee met in Public and Closed Session to discuss a number of informational items. However, two items are being reported out for action by the Board in Closed Session – a Personnel Matter and the Presidential 360 Evaluation.

Report of the Standing Committees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Gilliam stated that there are four items for action: (1) new academic degree program proposals; (2) change in degree program names; (3) amended TETFund MOU; and (4) the Performance Accountability Report.

➤ **Academic Degree Programs**

- **B.S. in Coastal Science and Policy Program** – Dr. Hongtao Yu, Dean of the School of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, and Dr. Scott Knoche, Director of the Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory, provided a brief overview on the program proposal. Dr. Knoche stated that the proposed Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Coastal Science and Policy is a unique degree program that will prepare students to study, manage, and protect coastal resources through transdisciplinary science and policy coursework. No higher education institution in Maryland offers a bachelor's degree that focuses on the transdisciplinary study of coastal ocean and estuarine science and the policies needed to protect, restore, and sustainably use coastal resources. Further, less than 3% of ocean science B.S. degrees in 2018 were awarded to Black or African American students. This is despite the fact that the number of geoscience-related positions in the labor market (including those in ocean sciences) is steadily increasing with 6.2% expected growth by 2028. This is faster than the 5.2% projected growth of the U.S. workforce during the same time period.
- **M.S. in Data Analytics and Visualization** – Dr. Fikru Boghossian, Dean of the School of Business and Management, provided a brief overview on the program proposal. He stated that the Department of Information Sciences and Systems in the Graves School of Business and Management is submitting a proposal to offer a Master of Science in Data Analytics and

Visualization. It is a unique 30 credit accelerated one-year program at a cost of \$30,000. He added that supporting data in terms of projected job opportunities has been provided to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

Chairman Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the two Academic Degree Programs. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Hollis. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

➤ **Change in Degree Program Names**

- **B.S. in Management to B.S. in Human Resource Management** – Dean Boghossian stated that the purpose of the title change is to clearly highlight among students, administrators, and employers about the content and expertise associated with this degree program. All the required courses for this program are in fact courses related to human resource management as opposed to management generally.
- **B.S. in Business Administration to B.S. in Management and Business Administration** – Dean Boghossian stated that the purpose of the title change is to be more descriptive of the actual content and expertise associated with this program to include insurance, business law, ethics, real estate and entrepreneurship.

Chairman Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Change in Degree Program Names. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Hollis. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- **Amended Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Memorandum of Understanding** – Dr. Yacob Astatke, Assistant VP for International Affairs, stated that the original MOU between Morgan State University and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund was signed in May 2020. It led to the enrollment of the first cohort of 19 Ph.D. students that joined MSU in the fall of 2020. The proposed amendment to the MOU was requested by the Executive Secretary of the TETFund, after the eight-member delegation completed their visit to our campus on June 21-23, 2021. The TETFund leadership was so satisfied with the outcome of their three-day visit that they are ready to expand the current MOU to include the sponsorship of master's degree students for up to two years, in addition to the sponsorship of the doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. We are pleased to announce that the second cohort of 79 new Ph.D. students is scheduled to join us later this fall.

There were questions raised about housing for these international students as well as capacity at the graduate level (both master's and doctoral). Dr. Wilson indicated that the University administration is working to address the housing matter. Regent Malcom commented that additional information would be provided during Closed Session. President Wilson added that we are striving to grow graduate enrollment to 2,000 students on a sustainable basis, recognizing that we will have to add more faculty to supervise dissertations, etc.

Chairman Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Amended TETFund MOU. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Hollis. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- **Performance Accountability Report (PAR)** – Dr. Solomon Alao, Assistant VP for Assessment and Operations, stated that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) requires that the PAR be officially approved by the Board. In accordance with MHEC requirements, the PAR for 2021 consists of the following: (1) the narrative aligned with our strategic plan and goals, and (2) actual and estimated data for the objectives.

Chairman Mfume opened the floor for a motion to adopt the Performance Accountability Report. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Malcom. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Regent Gilliam stated that many of the informational items were covered by the President in his earlier report to include housing and resocialization plans. She highlighted the Fall 2021 Mode of Instruction Update, noting the three modes available to students – face-to-face, online and Morgan-Flex.

Regent Gilliam yielded the floor to Dr. Kara Turner, VP for Enrollment Management and Student Success, to provide a brief update on enrollment, followed by Dr. Ed Scott, VP and Director of Athletics, with an update on athletics. Dr. Turner reported that we are tracking toward record freshman enrollment, which is expected to exceed 2,000 students. Headcount enrollment is tracking up as well and is expected to exceed MHEC's projection

of 7,867. She also reported the historic six-year, five-year and four-year graduation rates, as of May 2021, which are 44.1%, 40% and 21%, respectively.

Regent Gilliam asked Dr. Turner to explain why we are seeing an increase in freshman enrollment. Dr. Turner explained that there are many things going on that can be attributed to the increase in numbers. They include pent-up demand for the college experience and high demand for HBCUs – ‘Kamala Harris effect’ (high visibility of HBCU graduates) and the ‘George Floyd effect’ (social justice, racism, and police brutality). In terms of Morgan specifically, we are doing so many great things that are being publicized by our Public Relations Department in terms of the McKenzie Scott gift; the Calvin and Tina Tyler gift; the success of our athletic teams; and new academic programs. We have also been able to increase our institutional aid budget, so students are now coming in with merit awards, which is something that we were not able to do previously, as well as offer very competitive financial aid packages for the first time.

Dr. Scott provided a summary on the academic scorecard for spring 2021 (3.51 department GPA) and the 2020-2021 academic year (3.41 department GPA). He reported that the federal graduation rate for student-athletes at Morgan is 70% (up from 51% five years ago). He concluded by sharing a few departmental highlights for the 2020-2021 academic year: (1) women’s bowling – highest team GPA in the nation at 3.84; (2) men’s basketball – 2021 championship game runners up; (3) track and field – 2021 outdoor champions in shot put and triple jump; (4) softball – MEAC Champions/NCAA Tournament (first time in Morgan’s history); and (5) the MEAC/Nike Post Graduate Scholarship awarded to two individuals in softball and men’s tennis. Dr. Scott added that all of our home football games this season will be broadcast on the ESPN family network.

Chairman Mfume commended Dr. Scott for the great work and achievements being made in Athletics. Regent Malcom noted her concurrence.

Regent Gilliam concluded by summarizing the five SGA initiatives, which were provided by SGA President Jamera Forbes and Vice President Dai’Shona Jones. They center around students, community activities, student well-being, safety and legacy enhancement for each class.

Finance and Facilities Committee

Regent Malcom stated that a few of the information items discussed by the Finance Committee were covered in the President’s Report, particularly the New Thurgood Marshall Residency and Dining facility. She stated that the Committee received reports on the following subject matters: (i) deferred maintenance – appreciative of the state’s investment in allocating additional funding support to address these issues, in addition to money borrowed from the HBCU capital financing program; (ii) research – moving forward around the vision of advancing Morgan to the next level, R1 status; (iii) institutional advancement – remarkable year of giving; (iv) enrollment management; and (v) police and public safety – new PSB facility, training to prepare for the return of students, and grant funding to support body worn cameras.

Regent Malcom then yielded the floor to Mr. Sidney Evans, EVP for Finance and Administration, to provide a high-level budget overview. Mr. Evans stated that the FY 2022 operating budget has been put in place, starting July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, and is built on continued uncertainty as we open the campus and bring employees back. While we begin the year with excitement around new recruiting and enrollment numbers, we remain cautious from a budget perspective and have developed varying scenarios around increased enrollment. Additional investments were made to support a number of initiatives, including the financial aid optimization project (\$5 million) and instructional costs to accommodate the Hy-Flex model. The cost containment program, implemented in FY 2021, will remain in place through FY 2022 although modified with the reopening of campus. He added that the University received a \$6 million increase in its state appropriation for FY 2022, most of which has been designated to three areas – COLA (\$1.1M), the Center for Urban Health Equity (\$3M), and campus safety enhancements (\$1.7M). In sum, we are projecting an overall deficit of \$6.6 million for FY 2022; however, a recovery plan has been prepared to include our positive fund balance (cash reserves). More will be known by the enrollment freeze date of October 15th, but we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to have a balanced budget for this fiscal year.

Regent Malcom stated that there were six (6) action items brought before the Committee, four of which will be taken up in Closed Session. The Committee also considered the amended TETFund MOU, which has already been addressed. She then yielded the floor to Dr. Turner to provide an overview on the Student Residency Policy.

- **Policy on Student Residency Classification for Admission and Tuition Purposes** – Dr. Turner stated that in order to continue to be eligible to receive payments for any students eligible for VA Education

benefits, the University must amend its policy on in-state tuition to remove the requirement for covered individuals to enroll in a course at a public institution of higher learning within three years of being discharged to receive in-state tuition.

Chairman Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Policy on Student Residency. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Stokes. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee

Regent Ellis stated that the Committee met on Monday, July 26th with the expressed purpose of moving into Closed Session. In Closed Session, the Committee received an update on the findings of the last external audit as well as an update on the Internal Audit Charter. The Audit Committee recommends placing the matter of committee charters on the upcoming Board Retreat agenda. The Chairman stated that the recommendation is so ordered without objection.

Update on School of Osteopathic Medicine

Dr. Wilson reported that the Founding Dean (Dr. John Sealey) and School President have been hired and are here in Maryland. We have been working with them to provide a location on campus where they can work from. The Dean and School President are meeting with Mr. Evans and Ms. McCalla to work through the ground lease, which we hope to bring before the Board at the November meeting. The expectation is that the school will officially open in the fall of 2024 with its first entering class. They have also applied for candidacy status with the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, which is the first step in the process. He added that the progress is rapidly unfolding for the proposed School of Osteopathic Medicine as an affiliate of Morgan State University, and he will continue to update the Board along the way.

The Chairman asked Dr. Wilson to provide the background materials related to the proposed new school to our new Regents who were not present when this matter first began to take shape.

New Business

NCAA/NIL Update

Chairman Mfume yielded the floor to Dr. Scott to provide an update on the NCAA/NIL. He stated that the NCAA will be holding a Constitutional Convention in January to reshape the organizational structure of the association. There will be a 22-person committee appointed to provide a draft of potential models to the Board of Governors prior to the convention in January. The main objective is for the new NCAA structure to be more flexible and efficient in order to reflect the current landscape of college athletics.

Name, image and likeness (NIL) was implemented nationally on July 1, 2021. To date, 25 states have crafted legislation to govern NIL. Maryland has crafted legislation to be implemented July 1, 2023. In the meantime, Maryland is requiring as part of NIL that each institution provide policy information related to health and safety Measures as a result of the passing of Jordan McNair – a football student-athlete at the University of Maryland, College Park. This information is required to be submitted to the State of Maryland by October 1, 2021. The Athletic Department is working on the initial draft with MedStar to provide the draft to the Office of General Counsel during the month of August.

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion to adopt the President's Report. It was MOVED by Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED. The President's Report was unanimously adopted.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Mfume yielded the floor to Dean Sydnor and Dr. Hawkins for brief remarks in response to the action taken by the Board. Dean Sydnor stated that she is extremely grateful and appreciative of the recognition, noting that it was truly a team effort. Dr. Hawkins also expressed her appreciation, adding that she will continue to be of service while being part of the Morgan community and long after.

The Chairman asked Ms. Donna Howard to provide an update at the Board Retreat on fundraising, alumni giving and year end goals. He also encouraged Board members to consider making donations to the Foundation.

On behalf of the entire Board, Chairman Mfume thanked Regent Walker for his service on the Board of Regents and to the University.

On behalf of the entire Board and University administration, the Chairman extended condolences to Regent Resnick, his father (former Regent Martin Resnick) and his entire family on the recent passing of his mother, Thalia Resnick.

Chairman Mfume reminded the Board of several upcoming events that will take place before the next quarterly Board meeting in November. They include the Matriculation Convocation, the annual Homecoming Gala (modified due to ongoing COVID crisis) and Homecoming parade and football game. He encouraged Board members to attend/participate in as many events as possible in support of the University.

Dr. Wilson noted a major deferred maintenance challenge in the Murphy Fine Arts Center – the fallen ceiling in the Gilliam Concert Hall. As a result, the facility will likely be closed for the entire upcoming semester. He stated that we will work to identify other locations on campus to host affairs while the concert hall undergoes repair.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Wilson and his team for their participation and input during today's meeting.

Chairman Mfume announced that the Board of Regents would convene in Closed Session to consider items specifically exempted from public consideration under § 3-305(b)(1)(7)(8) of the Open Meetings Act. In Closed Session, the Board of Regents will consider the Northwood Commons Lease Amendments, Morgan View Master Lease, Off-Campus Student Housing Contract Resolutions and Contractual Staff Equity Conversion; receive a Litigation Update, an EEO Report and HBCU Coalition Case Update; and discuss a Personnel Matter and Presidential 360 evaluation. The Board may reconvene in Public Session at the conclusion of the Closed Session, if necessary.

After reading the citation into the record, the Chairman opened the floor for a motion to adjourn the Public Session to move into Closed Session. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed to adjourn the Public Session. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Public Session adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Northwood Commons Lease Amendments (in Closed Session)

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion to approve the Northwood Commons Lease Amendments – Termination of Cross Easement and Termination Agreement; First Amendment to PSB Ground Lease; and First Amendment to B&N Lease Agreement. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Morgan View Master Lease (in Closed Session)

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion to approve the Morgan View Master Lease. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Off-Campus Student Housing Contract Resolutions (in Closed Session)

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion to approve the Off-Campus Student Housing Contract Resolutions. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Hollis. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Contractual Staff Equity Conversion (in Closed Session)

The Chairman opened the floor for a motion of concurrence on the President's decision to convert contractual staff to full-time with benefits and to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. It was MOVED by Regent Wilkinson and SECONDED by Regent Malcom. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
CITATION OF AUTHORITY FOR CLOSING A MEETING
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT
BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Motion to close meeting made by: Regent Malcom

Seconded by: Regent Turnipseed

Members voting in favor: All Regents in attendance

Opposed:

Abstaining:

Absent: Regent Parker-Warren

THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE THIS MEETING CAN BE FOUND AT (check all that apply):

General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b)(1)(7)(8):

 X (1) (i) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

 (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;

 (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;

 (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;

 (5) To consider the investment of public funds;

- ____ (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;
- X** (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
- X** (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;
- ____ (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;
- ____ (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;
- ____ (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;
- ____ (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
- ____ (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
- ____ (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

General Provisions Article, § 3-103 (a):

- ____ (1) To carry out an administrative function;
- ____ (2) To carry out a judicial function;
- ____ (3) To carry out a quasi-judicial function.

FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. To discuss a Personnel Matter.
2. To receive a Litigation Update.
3. To consider the Northwood Commons Lease Amendments.
4. To consider the Morgan View Master Lease.
5. To consider the Off-Campus Student Housing Contract Resolutions.
6. To consider the Contractual Staff Equity Conversion.
7. To receive an EEO Report.
8. To discuss a Presidential 360 Evaluation.
9. To receive an HBCU Coalition Case Update.

THE BOARD MAY RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CLOSED SESSION IF NECESSARY TO TAKE ANY FINAL AND BINDING ACTION.

This statement is made by Kweisi Mfume
Chairman of the Board of Regents

SIGNATURE:



***** FOR USE IN MINUTES OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: *****

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND ACTION(S) TAKEN (IF ANY):