

Public Session Minutes

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Kweisi Mfume at 12:05 p.m.

Present: Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chair, Regent; General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Vice Chair, Regent; Mr. Carl Turnipseed, Secretary, Regent; Rev. Dr. Harold Carter, Regent; Mrs. Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Regent; Dr. Linda Gilliam, Regent; Mr. John Henry, Regent; Mr. Benjamin Klubes, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, Regent; Mr. Champion Ojo, Student Regent; Mr. Brian Pieninck, Regent; Mr. William Sherman, Regent; Ms. Shelonda Stokes, Regent; Dr. David Wilson, University President; Mr. Thomas Faulk, Principal Counsel for Morgan State University, Office of the Attorney General

Absent: Ms. Swati Agrawal, Regent

Remarks by the Chair

Chair Mfume opened the meeting by welcoming the Regents, university administration, and members of the public in attendance. He formally introduced and seated four new Regents – Mr. Champion Ojo, Mrs. Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Mr. John Henry, and Mr. Benjamin Klubes. He read their bios and welcomed them on behalf of the entire Board. He then yielded the floor to each Regent for brief remarks.

Regent Ojo stated that he is a rising senior majoring in economics and has been involved in the University community as an SGA Senator and Comptroller. He is excited to share details about the Summer Institute for Emerging Managers and Leaders (SIEML) Program, where they were able to earn full-ride tuition for the MBA Program for the next seven years. He is eager to go through the program in the next three years and is happy to answer any questions.

Regent Ferreras-Copeland stated that it is really an honor to join this very illustrious Board. She is looking forward to learning, to sharing, and to really setting forth a better life for these wonderful students here at this wonderful institution.

Regent Henry stated that this is a dream come true, growing up here in Baltimore (originally from New York) and to come back and see how wonderful Morgan has grown. He is looking forward to building relationships with many individuals around the room. He added that he travels back and forth to make sure that he continues to build relationships and will use his expertise in any way that he can to help the University.

Regent Klubes thanked the Chair and Board members for the warm welcome. He commented that this is an important time in his life to be a lawyer, given what is going on in the world. He hopes to make a small contribution, both here at Morgan and more broadly as a lawyer, during these turbulent times.

Chair Mfume appointed Regents Ferreras-Copeland and Ojo to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Regent Gilliam. Regent Henry was appointed to the Finance and Facilities Committee, chaired by Regent Malcom. Regent Klubes was appointed to the Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee, chaired by Regent Ellis. Regent Turnipseed was appointed Vice Chair of the Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee. Regents Gilliam and Ojo were appointed to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Regent Carter. Regent Sherman was reappointed to the Morgan State University Foundation as the Board representative.

The Chair shared that Regent Pieninck will be stepping down as President and CEO of CareFirst in September, where he has led the company with great distinction for the last 10 years bringing operational clarity, strategic foresight, and a sense of achievement. Many were saddened upon hearing that he would no longer be at the helm. He is leaving CareFirst to become the CEO of GuideWell, which is mutual holding corporation and a mission-driven nonprofit health solutions company and a parent company of Florida Blue and Triple S Management and Puerto Rico's Blue Cross Blue Shield program. The Chair noted that Regent Pieninck will not be leaving us and will continue to serve on the MSU Board of Regents where he provides wise counsel and collegueship. Board members along with Dr. Wilson applauded the good news.

The Chair thanked Board members for taking part in several recent events since the last Board meeting in May to include: Science Complex Groundbreaking, Spring Commencement, Alumni Day, and the Enolia Ribbon-Cutting. He reminded everyone about several upcoming events to include: New Student Induction Ceremony; Bear Family Day; New Regents' Orientation; Annual Board Retreat; Matriculation Convocation; Homecoming Gala and Football Game; Founders Day Convocation; Quarterly Board Meeting (November 10th); Annual Choir Holiday Concert and Regents' Reception; and Fall Commencement.

Chair Mfume 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.

Minutes

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to adopt the minutes of June 21, 2025. It was MOVED by Regent Turnipseed and SECONDED by Regent Malcom. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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 2025. Those highlights include: (a) Spring Commencement; (b) Choir's tour to Southeast Asia; (c) Marching Band's trip to Italy; (d) world stage recognitions – first Emmy Award, UNCF/HBCU Futurist Award, APA Fellow, 2025 Venice Architecture Biennial Exhibition, Autonomous Wheelchair Technology Showcase, and HBCU Leadership Award; (e) positioning Morgan to lead in AI; (f) finances and infrastructure investments; (g) facilities update; (h) TOGO Delegation visit; (i) legislative priorities; (j) Morgan on the Vineyard; (k), faculty and staff institutes; (l) move-in week; (m) enrollment update; (n) research grants/awards and patents; (o) Carnegie research designations; and (p) upcoming events – Breakfast on the Commons, New Student Induction Ceremony, and Retirement Celebration for Dr. Kevin Banks.

Regent Pieninck inquired about the process/procedure to consummate R1 designation. Dr. Wilson responded that it is simple. The American Council on Education and the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education make two announcements – (1) a soft announcement in December 2027 where institutions are provided an opportunity to correct any data and (2) the official classification is announced in February 2028. With that in mind, we must pay attention to research grants awarded over the next three to four years to ensure they do not decrease precipitously as expenditures will consequently follow. He emphasized that we do not want to achieve R1 status for a minute but remain an R1 institution for a lifetime.

Regent Stokes commended Dr. Wilson for his bold vision, his commitment to ensuring that Morgan does not lose its soul in the quest to achieve R1 status, and the collective hard work of his administrative team.

Regent Carter asked whether the \$84M appropriation included in the capital budget for electrical upgrades anticipates the perceived drainage for AI. Ms. Kim McCalla, VP for Facilities, Design and Construction Management, stated that the funding for campus expansion includes other technologies that will help supersede the power that we are getting. However, her team will double check regarding AI development.

Report of the Standing Committees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Gilliam welcomed the four new Board members, adding that she looks forward to working with those appointed to this Committee. She congratulated Regent Pieninck on his new appointment, and noted that she, too, is pleased that he will remain a member of this Board. She stated that the Committee has two items for action.

- **Performance Accountability Report (PAR)** – Regent Gilliam stated that the PAR was presented by Dr. Solomon Alao, AVP for Assessment and Operations, who highlighted three key areas where Morgan exceeds the national average: (1) retention of African American students; (2) STEM diversity and workforce contributions; and (3) alumni giving rate comparable to other HBCUs. The report consists of 61 metrics of which 82% are increasing or stable. There was a discussion on how the key performance indicators (KPIs) are measured with the understanding that the goals are revisited annually to ensure realistic targets. The Committee also received an update on global studies. It was noted that despite international tensions, the University will activate educational initiatives in Africa and maintain focus on sustainable global partnerships. Morgan anticipates a 5% increase in international students this fall. Regent Gilliam reported that approximately 150 students participated in studies abroad with about 10 students studying abroad for a full semester. Funding, however, remains a significant challenge for semester-long study abroad opportunities.

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

- **Hazing Policy** – Regent Gilliam stated that Dr. Letitia Williams, interim VP for Student Affairs, presented the comprehensive new policy required by the Stop Campus Hazing Act. The policy includes definitions, reporting requirements, prevention training, and confidential support resources. The Committee discussed the policy's details, including the expanded definition of hazing and the requirement for annual prevention training for students and staff. The policy only applies to student hazing and does not cover faculty or staff interactions. Regent Gilliam noted that the Committee lost a quorum and was unable to take any action.

Chair Mfume asked for additional information pertaining to the expanded definition of hazing. Dr. Williams stated that the federal government passed a Stop Campus Hazing Act, which requires all universities and colleges to have a new hazing policy. She emphasized that Morgan had a definition of hazing in its Code of Student Conduct, which was a violation of the code. The Hazing Act expanded the definition by the federal government, which includes two major changes – (1) recognizes student organizations and groups of students and (2) consent is not an excuse (e.g., intentional acts related to being included in an organization). She noted that hazing must now be reported in our annual security report in accordance with the Clery Act. In addition, if there are any incidents of hazing, institutions are required to have published a Campus Hazing Transparency Report biannually.

Chair Mfume was advised by the legal team of an additional amendment made to the policy and, therefore, further discussion on this matter was deferred to the closed session. There were no objections.

Regent Gilliam highlighted the information items to include: (i) Academic Affairs – existing and proposed certificate programs; (ii) Research – increased grant submissions and awards with a record \$104M awarded this current year; (iii) Enrollment Management – new scholarship matching portal (Scholarship Universe); (iv) Student Affairs – housing modernization, mental health services, and career development efforts; (v) SGA – mentorship program and community service initiatives; and (vi) Athletics – spring 2025 academic report, competitive successes (volleyball, football, basketball, track and field, and wrestling), and upcoming events (LIIDERSHIP Academy, first home football game, Circle City Classic in Indianapolis, and Homecoming).

Finance and Facilities Committee

Regent Malcom stated that the Committee received updates from (i) Facilities, Design and Construction Management – strategic plan for housing (target of 5,200 beds through a combination of building, renovation, leasing and P3 relationships), capital budget (Science Complex and energy upgrade), and deferred maintenance; (ii) Research and Economic Development – Carnegie designation and patents (Morgan in top 100); (iii) Institutional Advancement – stewarding resources from alumni and investors; (iv) and Enrollment Management – as highlighted previously in the President's Report; and (v) Finance and Administration – strong balance sheet.

She stated that the Committee has two action items.

- **Third Amendment to Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) Ground Lease** – Regent Malcom stated that the amendment to the air rights and ground lease provides the University with the authority to additionally defer part or all of the ground lease payments due or coming due from time to time to support the economics of the projects. In addition, the Board delegates authority to the President, with notification to the Executive Committee, to determine the period and amount of the deferral with written notice to MEDCO. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Third Amendment to MEDCO Ground Lease. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Pieninck. Regent Stokes ABSTAINED. The MOTION CARRIED.

- **FY 2027 Tuition, Housing and Board Rate Adjustments** – Regent Malcom stated that the administration is seeking approval of rates adjustments for FY 2027. She emphasized that there were no increases during the pandemic (all rates remained leveled). Proposed increases are 2% for tuition, 5% for housing, and 8% for board. The adjustments are needed to offset increased operating costs and the effects of inflation. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval.

Regent Sherman asked when the rate adjustments will become effective. Regent Malcom stated that the rate adjustments, if approved, will go into effect for the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters.

Chair Mfume asked whether students were involved in the discussions/explanations regarding the proposed increases. Regent Malcom commented that there is no student representative on the Finance and Facilities Committee. She added that the administration provides ample time for review and input by the Committee, presenting proposed increases for information first before seeking approval at a subsequent meeting. Dr. Wilson stated that the student voice is indeed part of the process at the administrative level. The administration confers with the SGA, meeting with the group two to three times each semester, and fee proposals are discussed.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the FY 2027 Tuition, Housing and Board Rate Adjustments. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Pieninck. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee

Regent Ellis stated that the Committee had no items for action and received updates on the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Enterprise Risk Management (progress on risk assessment templates and project management committee) and Internal Audit (current OLA audit, internal audits, and investigations) in Closed Session.

Adjournment of the Public Session

Chair Mfume announced that the Board of Regents would convene in Closed Session to consider items specifically exempted from public consideration under General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(2)(7)(8)(10) of the Open Meetings Act. In Closed Session, the Board will receive an update on the House vs. NCAA Settlement; receive an update on Campus Safety; consider the Hazing Policy and Amendments to Code of Student Conduct; receive an update on the Medical School; receive an EEO Report; receive an update on Litigation; consider an Honorary Degree Candidate Recommendation; and receive an update on Naming. The Board may reconvene in Public Session at the conclusion of the Closed Session, if necessary.

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

The Public Session adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Hazing Policy and Amendments to Code of Student Conduct (Closed Session)

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Hazing Policy. It was MOVED by Regent Sherman and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve Amendments to the Code of Student Conduct. It was MOVED by Regent Sherman and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Honorary Degree Candidate Recommendation (Closed Session)

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Honorary Degree Candidate Recommendation. It was MOVED by Regent Turnipseed and SECONDED by Regent Ellis. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Richardson Library
Conference Room

Motion to close meeting made by: Regent Turnipseed

Seconded by: Regent Malcom

Members voting in favor: All Regents in attendance

Opposed:

Abstaining:

Absent: Regent Agrawal

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

General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b)(2)(7)(8)(10):

____ (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;

X (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;
- X** (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.
- ____ (15) To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information, including information that is: 1. Related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a governmental entity; 2. Collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or 3. Related to an assessment, made by or for a governmental entity or maintained by a governmental entity, of the vulnerability of a network to criminal activity; or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.

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 receive an update on the House vs. NCAA Settlement.
2. To receive an update on Campus Safety.
3. To consider the Hazing Policy and Amendments to Code of Student Conduct.
4. To receive an update on the Medical School.
5. To receive an EEO Report.
6. To receive an update on Litigation.
7. To consider an Honorary Degree Candidate Recommendation.
8. To receive an update on Naming.

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):