Public Session Minutes

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman Kweisi Mfume at 12:23 pm.

Present: Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman; Rev. Dr. Frances M. Draper, Vice Chair; Mr. Tyrone Taborn, Secretary (via teleconference); Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Regent (via teleconference); General (Ret.) Larry R. Ellis, Regent; Dr. Linda J. Gilliam, Regent; Dr. Shirley M. Malcom, Regent; Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Regent; Mr. Matthew Reeds, Student Regent; Mr. Martin R. Resnick, Regent (via teleconference); Ms. Shelonda Stokes, Regent; Mrs. Penelope J. Taylor, 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: Dr. Charles Griffin, Regent

The Chairman referenced the meeting 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.

Chairman’s Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Regents in attendance and members of the public. He began by thanking the Regents for all of their work on the various committees and for attending the December commencement and associated events. He also referenced the handout listing the coming events for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Chair formally appointed the membership of the Nominating Committee. He appointed Regent Martin Resnick as the Chair of the committee and appointed Regents Shelonda Stokes and Winston Wilkinson as committee members. The Chairman added Regent Marquis Walker to the Special Committee on Structure, Compensation and Equity chaired by Regent Penelope Taylor.

The Chairman provided an update on the status of Regent Griffin noting that he remains at the Holly Hill Rehabilitation Center. His condition has continued to vary. The Chair asked that members call or visit Regent Griffin, where possible. He asked that we keep him and his wife in prayer as his wife has had a lengthy illness as well.
The Chairman made mention of the highlights of Morgan’s Football greats who went on to have careers in the NFL and are in the NFL Hall of Fame. These individuals were recognized at Super Bowl LI.

The Chairman shared birthday greetings for Regent Tyrone Taborn, whose birthday is tomorrow, February 8th.

Approval of Minutes

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2016 Board meeting. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Wilkinson to approve the minutes of November 2, 2016. THE MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Chairman yielded the floor to President Wilson to receive his report.

Report of the President

Dr. Wilson welcomed Dr. Michael Spencer, the new Dean of the School of Engineering. Dean Spencer made a few remarks. Dr. Wilson also recognized Dr. N’gom as the new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Wilson provided a brief overview of President Trump’s ban on Immigrants. He stated that this impacts approximately 10% of our student populations, primarily those from Middle Eastern countries. Dr. Robinson offered an overview of what the process is for international students and reiterated the impact on the students and the institution. Dr. Wilson added that the institution is keeping a close eye on the evolving situation.

Dr. Wilson informed the Board that the university is focusing on the Anniversary Campaign. He shared that we are at approximately 70% of the institution’s $250M goal. Dr. Wilson highlighted several donors who have made significant contributions to date.

Dr. Wilson stated that the December Choir concert was the kick-off event of the university sesquicentennial celebration.

He added that the university awarded 427 degrees at the December commencement ceremony.

On December 11, there was a significant attendance at the day of worship at Sharp Street United Methodist Church in Baltimore. This is where Morgan began and initial classes were held for students.

On December 25th (Christmas Day), we held a reading of the Special Proclamation on the Founding of Morgan and rang the bells of Holmes Hall commemorating the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Centenary Biblical Institute. The Board met on December 25, 1866 and started the process of the founding of what is now Morgan State
President Wilson provided an update on the Governor’s budget recommendations. He stated that the university’s FY-18 State Budget Appropriation would not be cut. He added that, overall, the University will receive a 2.5% increase. The total allocation will be $93.84 million. He added that on the capital budget the Governor had proposed a total of $10.36 million ($2.1 million to complete the last phase of the Behavioral Sciences Building and $8.3 million to fund the second phase of the student services building.

Dr. Wilson informed the Board that he was asked to respond to two areas related to the Higher Education Overviews in the legislature: (1) the experience Morgan had with dual enrollment, and (2) Morgan’s experience with reaching out to and enrolling non-traditional students.

Dr. Wilson then reminded the Board of the upcoming budget hearings.

Dr. Wilson informed the Regents that the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) would be on campus with their normal cyclical review of Maryland public agencies of every three to five years. Therefore, they will be at Morgan for a few months. Morgan’s last audit by OLA was in 2013.

Dr. Wilson referenced the coalition case and that the remedy phase trial opened on January 9, 2017. He said that he was the first witness to testify. He added that the Board would have further discussion in closed session.

Dr. Wilson finalized his report by stating that progress was occurring with the NCAA matter and he reported that Morgan underwent an NCAA data review approximately a year ago. The process resulted in the identification of a number of players, participating in their sports, who were not eligible to do so during that period. He reminded the Board that after internal review and auditing of our processes and procedures, Morgan has received notification that the NCAA is satisfied with the corrective actions and the eligibility processes that have been implemented. However, the institution awaits potential action from the NCAA Enforcement Division related to the infractions.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the President’s Report. It was MOVED by Regent Ellis and SECONDED by Regents Gilliam and Resnick. The President’s Report was APPROVED as presented.

The Chairman offered condolences to Dr. Wilson and Mr. Janek as they both lost their brothers over the past week.
Report of the Standing Committees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Regent Gilliam stated that the committee meeting minutes of November 2, 2016 were approved.

Dr. Gilliam added that the “Acceptable Use of Technology” Policy came before her committee. This draft policy required additional review prior to bringing it forward for approval by the Board.

Dr. Gilliam referenced the discussion of Online Tuition and Fees. She stated that the committee was in favor of the proposed Online Tuition and Fees as discussed in Dr. Taylor’s update at the last meeting. There was discussion around faculty and online funding for specific programs and schools as well as how the funding model was being addressed to support the programs. Regent Gilliam and Dr. Gibson agreed that further discussion would occur internal to the institution, such that these areas would be addressed. Regent Gilliam requested an update on online programs at each meeting.

Dr. Gilliam informed the Board that they heard the report of the SGA as well as an enrollment update.

Dr. Gilliam stated that this concluded her report.

Finance and Facilities Committee
The Chairman then called for the report from the Finance and Facilities Committee. Regent Malcom stated that the committee meeting minutes of November 2, 2016 were approved.

Regent Malcom said that the University submitted its FY 2018 five-year Capital Budget Request to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on July 1, 2016. There was a decrease in the budget that was submitted as there was a removal of the modules related to the Montebello Surge and Demolition. There was a call for a motion to approve the revised budget by Regent Malcom. The Motion was seconded by Regents Gilliam and Cummings. The motion carried unanimously.

Regent Malcom stated that the committee received updates from the Facilities, Design and Construction Management Department, the Research and Economic Development Division as well as the Institutional Advancement Update which included a notation that $6.6 million dollars had been raised as of June 30, 2016.

The committee also heard from Enrollment Management. Dr. Turner talked about her recruitment efforts. She stated that the university is looking at numbers across the country with the goal of securing regional recruitment staff in targeted areas. She added that they are looking to hire a person for the Midwest. Regent Resnick discussed the mix of students in-state and out-of-state with regard to enrollment. Dr. Turner stated that she would follow-up with Regent Resnick with regard to his thoughts in this area.
Regent Stokes asked about branding of the university and specific messaging as we expand our recruitment efforts. The Board stated that we need to look at the branding and the “Who we are” at the next meeting or at the retreat. Regent Ellis stated that this should tie back to the strategic plan.

Regent Malcom indicated that this concluded her committee report.

Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee
The Chairman referred to Audit Committee Vice-Chair Ellis for the report/updates from the Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee. Regent Ellis stated that the committee addressed two items in Public Session and two items in Closed Session. He added that the meeting was very productive and progress is being made. He stated that other than that, there were no additional items to report at this time.

Update from the Special Committee on Policies
The Chairman called upon Regent Draper for an update from the Special Committee on Policy. Regent Draper stated that the Committee draft of the Policy on Policies was developed as the guiding policy on how policies would be managed at the university. It was stated that the “Policy on Policies” needed to be reviewed for form and legal sufficiency and also needed to move through the university internal governance process for review. The Board approved the Policy on Policies in concept and in theory and requested that the internal review occur prior to the next scheduled board meeting.

Update from the Special Committee on Structure Compensation and Equity
The Special Committee on Structure, Compensation and Equity met with President Wilson and Mr. Evans. One of the main areas of discussion were the policies related to personnel and staffing. The committee will be reviewing some of the personnel/human resources documents to glean a sense of the most important areas to target. Regent Taylor stated that she plans to work with Ms. Grant to review the performance instrument and provided assistance and guidance with the process as well as streamlining the instrument itself for ease of use. She added that her committee is a resource to aid the institution in reviewing and assessing best practices in this area. She added the university is to provide the committee with the evaluation /survey report from the Evergreen Consulting Firm.

Update from the Special Committee on Athletics
Regent Wilkinson informed the Board his committee met with Dr. Wilson and Mr. Scott regarding the athletic program. Mr. Scott communicated the mission and vision of the program, as well as the direction he plans to move with regard to student athletes. Regent Wilkinson added that the Board heard from Mr. Scott with regard to the progress on the NCAA matter, and how the non-compliance areas are being addressed. Regent Wilkinson stated that the university is on the right track.

Update from the Evaluation Committee
Regent Ellis, Chair of the evaluation committee stated that the committee met to look at the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the percentage allocations related to the evaluation and the indicators. They looked at the structure to ensure that it was in
alignment with the university goals as well and what the President should be measured on. The next steps are to meet with the president and continue with the process to meet the goal of the final review at the Board retreat.

**New Business**

No new business items were brought forward.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the PUBLIC SESSION to move into CLOSED SESSION. It was moved by Regent Wilkinson and SECONDED by Regent Malcom and Walker to adjourn the PUBLIC SESSION. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The PUBLIC SESSION ADJOURNED at 3:09 pm.