



## BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

12 Noon

Teleconference

### Public Session Minutes

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Vice Chairman Larry Ellis at 12:05 p.m.

**Present:** General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Vice Chair, Regent; Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Secretary, Regent; Rev. Dr. Harold Carter, Jr., Regent; Dr. Linda Gilliam, Regent; Mr. Wayne Resnick, Regent; Ms. Shelonda Stokes, Regent; Mr. Jeffon Stubbs, Student Regent; Mrs. Penelope 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:** Mr. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman, Regent; Rev. Dr. Frances Draper, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, Regent

#### **Vice Chairman's Remarks**

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Regents, University administration, and members of the public. He noted that Chairman Mfume would not be joining us today as he is being sworn in as a member of Congress.

#### **Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

Regent Wilkinson reported that the call for nominations went out in March. Based on feedback received, it is recommended that the slate of officers remain in place for the upcoming fiscal year.

Regent Resnick asked whether Regent Mfume would be able to serve as Chair now that he is a member of Congress. Mr. Faulk stated that the Chairman expressed his desire to continue serving as Chairman of the Morgan State University Board of Regents.

Regent Wilkinson MOVED to approve the recommended slate of officers for the 2021 fiscal year – Mr. Kweisi Mfume as Chair, General Larry Ellis as Vice Chair, and the Honorable Tracey Parker-Warren as Secretary. It was SECONDED by Regent Stokes. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Regent Wilkinson MOVED to confirm the slate of officers for FY 2021 as submitted – Regent Mfume as Chair, Regent Ellis as Vice Chair, and Regent Parker-Warren as Secretary. It was SECONDED by Regent Resnick. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The Vice Chairman called for a motion to jointly adopt the minutes from the March 20, 2020 Emergency Board meeting and the minutes of the Special Board meeting from April 6, 2020. It was MOVED by Regents Wilkinson and Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Taylor to approve the minutes of March 20, 2020 and April 6, 2020. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

#### **Report of the President**

The President reported that the University had to make a series of quick decisions resulting from the novel coronavirus, to include: suspending classes leading up to Spring Break; moving classes to online or remote modality; closing the campus and not allowing students to return based on the Governor's Executive Order; implementing restricted guidelines for faculty and staff to come to the campus; refunding meal plan costs, housing costs, athletic fees, and parking and facility fees to students. We had to invest in additional platforms for remote instruction and supply many of our students with laptops to enable them to access online classes. We also instituted cost containment strategies, which include a

freeze on travel and hiring, and strict controls on spending. As a result of additional refined information, the projected deficit has been adjusted downward to approximately \$16 million. We anticipate receipt of approximately \$23.6M from the CARES Act to assist us in addressing the projected shortfall. Finally, work began over a month ago to put in place a planning strategy for FY 2021, taking into consideration several assumptions and scenarios.

### **Report of the Executive Committee**

The Vice Chairman provided an update from the May 1, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. He stated that the meeting was informational in nature to shape the agenda for today's Board meeting.

### **Report of the Standing Committees**

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

Regent Gilliam stated that there are five items for action.

- **Change of Degree Program Names**
  - **MA in Journalism to MA in Global Multimedia Journalism and Communication** – The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Walker. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
  - **MS in Science to MS in Integrated Science** – The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Taylor. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- Regent Gilliam noted these changes would then go to MHEC where it should be protected against duplication by other universities.
- **Morgan and Carnegie Mellon Dual Degree Program** – The Department of Civil Engineering of Morgan State University (MSU) and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) propose to initiate a CMU/MSU dual degree doctoral program in Civil Engineering. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Carter. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- **Outstanding Faculty Awards Policy** – The revision to the original policy dated March 5, 1981 expands the categories of Outstanding Faculty Awards to be given annually and provides the opportunity to recognize the outstanding work of more Morgan faculty. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends approval. Regent Gilliam highlighted two major differences with the updated policy – committee terms from one year to three years and the award amount from \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,000. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Taylor. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- **Interim Guidance for Extending the Tenure and Promotion Timeline of FY 2021 in Response to COVID-19** – The University recognizes the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on all of us, and the great concern it causes for faculty members working toward promotion and/or tenure. The interim guidance offers an extension of time to apply for promotion and/or tenure and second-third year reviews for all eligible faculty members who request it due to the effects of the pandemic on their ability to work. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Taylor. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- **Animals on Campus Policy** – The implementation of this Policy will position the University to implement best practices in supporting students and their mental health needs. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Walker. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Dr. Turner reported that there will likely be a slight decline in enrollment depending on whether the University will open in the fall or continue with remote instruction. The other major factor is the ability of parents to pay. We remain optimistic based on a number of recent accommodations made and new initiatives instituted.

Regent Gilliam congratulated Dean Wickham on the accreditation of the School of Global Journalism and Communication. Dr. Wilson applauded the leadership of Dean Wickham and faculty in the school.

Dr. Banks introduced the elected Student Government Association (SGA) representatives for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year – Alexander Freeman, President, and Simone Lonas, Vice President. He thanked outgoing SGA President, Keyon Grayson, for all of his hard work.

Regent Gilliam expressed her pleasure of working with Student Regent Stubbs over the past year. Vice Chairman Ellis, along with members of the Board and President Wilson, thanked him for serving with honor and distinction and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

Regent Stubbs was presented with a gift on behalf of the full Board. After opening the package, Regent Stubbs shared prepared remarks, which will be included as part of the official minutes.

### **Finance and Facilities Committee**

Regent Stokes stated that there are four items for action.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between Morgan and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND)**– The purpose of this agreement is to establish a mutually beneficial education and research relationship between Morgan and the TETFUND to provide an opportunity for eligible faculty and staff of public tertiary institutions in Nigeria to pursue doctoral degrees and post-doctoral research at Morgan in all fields and disciplines offered at Morgan relevant to the developmental needs of Nigeria and funded by TETFUND grants and scholarships. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- **Amendment to Policy on Student Residency** – In order to remain competitive for students, the University wishes to amend the Policy on Student Residency Classification for Admission and Tuition Purposes to align some of its provisions with some of the recent changes made by other state institutions in April 2019. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Carter. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- **Dual Enrollment Tuition** – Morgan State University wants to establish tuition guidelines for participating in dual enrollment programs with high schools. Dual enrollment allows eligible high school students to take college classes and receive both high school and college credit for the classes. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Carter. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.
- **FY 2022 Capital Budget Request** – The University's FY 2022 Five-Year Capital Budget Request is due to the Department of Budget and Management on June 30, 2020. Based on preliminary estimates, the five-year request totals \$518.8M, of which \$51.1M is for FY 2022. The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval. It was MOVED by Regent Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Walker. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Evans reported that the New Student Housing Project is still on target to open in August 2022. He indicated that the refined projected fiscal impact of COVID-19 is \$15.8M. Morgan expects to receive approximately \$23.6M from the CARES Act, of which \$4.6M will be distributed to students. In addition, the FY 2021 operating budget has been reduced by \$11.3M. This is a permanent reduction so the University will need to make adjustments to state and federal appropriations moving forward.

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

Vice Chairman Ellis stated that the Committee had no action items. Our new audit partner, Clifton Larson Allen (CLA), was introduced. In closed session, the Committee received an update from Internal Audit.

### **Report of the Evaluation Committee**

Regent Walker reported that the Evaluation Committee met earlier this year, in mid-January, to review the 2018-2019 key performance evaluation indicators and made necessary updates to remove completed goals and ensure that the evaluation is aligned with the strategic plan. The Committee agreed on a set of

evaluation measures for 2019-2020, and made a request to the Chairman to keep the same committee composition for an additional year.

**New Business**

Regent Gilliam commented that having remote standing committee meetings prior to the day of the full Board was a good idea, and suggested that it be considered for all committee meetings moving forward. President Wilson indicated that this would be relatively easy to implement and would also cut costs.

Regent Walker added that the Board has been reviewing some board portal options that should be considered, which would aid in getting out Board materials and enhance communication between committees.

Mr. Faulk indicated that the format and times of meetings are matters under current consideration by the Chairman. Therefore, the legal team suggested the matter be discussed with the Chairman. Vice Chairman Ellis stated that these matters will be kept visible, but were tabled for now.

The Vice Chairman announced that the Board of Regents would reconvene 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 will consult with counsel to receive a Litigation Update, an EEO Report, and discuss the New Student Regent Recommendation. The Board may reconvene in Public Session at the conclusion of the Closed Session, if necessary.

After reading the citation into the record, Vice Chairman Ellis called for a motion to adjourn the PUBLIC SESSION to move into CLOSED SESSION. It was MOVED by Regent Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Carter to adjourn the PUBLIC SESSION. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The PUBLIC SESSION adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

# **Jeffon F. Stubbs**

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May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To: Morgan State University Board of Regents

CC: Dr. David Wilson, President

Mrs. Kassandra Grogan, Executive Administrator

I write this message with a heavy heart, but a heart filled with gratitude nonetheless. Today marks the 4<sup>th</sup> and final quarterly meeting of my appointed term as Student Regent. As I reflect on my experience at this distinguished table, I considered it fitting to formally address you as I make way for my successor—similar to how I was formally welcomed back in August.

It has been a wonderful journey. Having the opportunity to interact with you all has changed my life in ways that I never could have fathomed. Just as I anticipated during my selection process, you are a collective fountain of knowledge, experience, and proficient insight. I truly consider it an honor to have worked alongside you all.

I would like to commend our collective deportment as the governing body of Maryland's gem in higher education. Professionalism, prudence, persistence, and passion are but a few of the tenets that I have seen exemplified and maintained by the Board. Chairman Mfume, I thank you for overseeing our functionality with a steady hand. Your stellar leadership is reflected in our consistent efficiency.

To the committees on which I have served—namely the committees for Academic & Student Affairs and the President's evaluation—thank you for valuing my input and teaching me so much about the operations of our beloved Morgan. I will cherish the work we have done and the results we have achieved.

My dreamful senior year and surreal experience on the Board was unexpectedly interrupted by a global crisis. Amidst coping with an abruptly ended senior year, however, I was fortunate enough to experience the swift and decisive action of the Board, Dr. Wilson, and senior University leadership as we responded to the impact that COVID-19 had and continues to have on our goal to *Grow the Future & Lead the World*. Trust me when I say that I dreamt about making remarks like this as I prepared for a May graduation, but I never would have imagined that my words (or even physical presence) would have been subjected to such harsh circumstances. I end my tenure as Student Regent somewhat disappointed, but forever grateful and indebted to you all—and to **fair Morgan!**

I could never, not even in a million years, end this letter without acknowledging, highlighting, and praising the efforts and contributions of our backbone—Mrs. Kassandra Grogan. If I did not gain anything else from this past year as a Regent...I would be content knowing that I have gained a mentor and friend in Mrs. Grogan. She is, by far, the most efficient and consistent person/professional that I have ever witnessed. I could not have made it through my term without her. She is a gem to the Board, and she should always be recognized and remembered as such!

In closing, I thank you all once again for this opportunity. You have all touched my life in a special way. I will go forward always mindful and always thankful for the time I have spent on the Morgan State University Board of Regents.

Yours with Morgan Pride,



Jeffon Stubbs  
*Student Regent*  
*Morgan State University*

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

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020              Time: 12:00 p.m.              Location: Teleconference

Motion to close meeting made by: Regent Stokes

Seconded by: Regent Carter

Members voting in favor: All Regents in attendance

Opposed:

Abstaining:

Absent: Regent Draper, Regent Malcom, Regent Mfume

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

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

(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;
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
- (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 receive an EEO Report/Litigation Update.
2. To discuss the New Student Regent Recommendation (FY 2021).

**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 Larry R. Ellis  
Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents

**SIGNATURE:**

 5 MAY 2020

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

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