

## Public Session Minutes

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Kweisi Mfume at 12:00 p.m.

**Present:** Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chair, Regent; General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Vice Chair, Regent; Mr. Carl Turnipseed, Secretary, Regent; Ms. Swati Agrawal, Regent; Rev. Dr. Harold Carter, Regent; Dr. Linda Gilliam, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, Regent; Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Regent; Mr. Jared Patterson, Student Regent; Mr. Brian Pieninck, Regent; Mr. William Sherman, Regent (1p); Ms. Shelonda Stokes, 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:** Ms. Emily Hunter, Regent

### **Board Chair and Regents' Welcome**

Chair Mfume opened the meeting by welcoming Regents, university administration, and members of the public in attendance. He extended a warm welcome to special guests and former Regents – Martin Resnick (who was a Board member for 34 years) and his son, Wayne Resnick (who succeeded him on the Board). He yielded the floor to them for brief remarks. Martin shared that it is such a delight to be back on campus and to see the growth of the University. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve on the Board and he thanked the Chair for the privilege of speaking today. Chair Mfume thanked Wayne for arranging today's visit and for his service on the Board. He then opened the floor to Dr. Wilson and members of the Board for comments and observations.

Dr. Wilson stated that it was an honor for him to serve as President during the latter part of Martin's tenure on the Board. He shared that Martin always approached his responsibilities with the highest level of integrity and he brought forth some of the best business practices for us to consider implementing here at Morgan. Dr. Wilson noted that Martin also served as Interim Chair of the Board for six months, adding that the smooth handoff from Interim Chair Resnick to current Chair Mfume serves as a model for governing boards of higher education in America.

Regent Malcom stated that she learned so much from Martin. She emphasized that his spirit continues on in the Finance and Facilities Committee and Wayne can attest to the fact that anytime we got ready to raise any amount of tuition and fees, the phrase that went around was "we know what Marty would say." And so the Finance Committee would be very careful to think through how it handle those issues because that was something Marty always invoked that we don't just do things without thinking about it. It is a tradition that continues beyond both of their tenures. She thanked them for their service.

Regent Ellis echoed the comments expressed by Regent Malcom. He stated that he and Marty constantly communicated. What he remembers the most about Marty was his request to see the data associated with all proposed fee increases, which was so important. It is why Morgan's fees are where they are today because Marty stood on principles. He thanked Marty for all he has done, adding that he now serves in the Vice Chair position that Marty formerly held.

Regent Parker-Warren stated that while she did not have as much time working with Marty as others, she was really impressed by his savvy business sense which she will never forget. She added that he taught his son well because Wayne also takes after him in that regard. She thanked them both for their service on the Board.

Ms. Julie Goodwin, General Counsel, extended greetings to both Resnicks. She shared that after having served for 30+ years with Martin Resnick, she has a very keen sense of all the wonderful qualities that he has – wisdom, integrity, foresight, balance, and good humor. She added that she still has his business cards that makes her laugh every day.

Regent Wilkinson echoed the sentiments that were shared. He stated that while he only knew Martin for a little while, he appreciated the position that Martin took where he never wavered, which helped him in terms of being a Board member – to take positions, hold the line, and to do what you think is right for the students at Morgan. He thanked Martin for his leadership and sternness and wished him well in the future.

Regent Stokes stated that it was an honor to serve with Martin. She thanked him for his partnership, his leadership, for what he has done with Martin's, for hosting our Gala for so many years, and for just being a partner.

Chair Mfume concluded that he hopes it is apparent today as it was the day Marty left that there is a whole lot of love around the table for him, a lot of appreciation for the 34 years of service on the Board, and for giving us Wayne when he could no longer serve. Martin stated that he is so appreciative of the warm welcome felt from so many and that he has not been forgotten. He thanked everyone for their words of kindness and Regents for accepting him as a past member of this wonderful Board.

### **Introduction of New Student Regent**

Chair Mfume yielded the floor to Dr. Letitia Williams, Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, to share some of the things that went into the selection process and to say a few words about the incoming student regent, followed by Paityn Brooks (former student regent) and Jared Patterson (new student regent).

Dr. Williams stated that the student regent selection process is very rigorous not only in terms of preparing the application packet but also the interview, which both she and Dr. Banks sat in on along with other student leaders. She shared that students are the toughest on their peers in terms of how they select their representatives. They want to make sure that the individual is really going to be a great voice for them. There were a number of highly qualified, enthusiastic candidates this year. What stood out about Mr. Patterson was not only his level of commitment as a student leader and how excellent he was performing in his academics, but how he prepared for the interview and for this role – he knew the Regents; had a sense of the workings of the Board; and spoke with other student regents who had served in this position to figure out what it meant, what he would have to do, the level of commitment, and how he planned to serve. She noted that he drove down from New York, where he is interning at Citibank, to attend today's meeting which shows his level of commitment and professionalism.

Ms. Brooks shared that it is great to be back. Although it is bittersweet, she stated that she is happy to extend the baton to Jared who is actually a close friend. She added that he has been very inspiring and she looks forward to seeing everything that he will do.

Regent Patterson stated that he is very excited about this role. Morgan has done so much for him and he is excited to give back. He added that he looks forward to meeting and working with everyone and to get started.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Mfume welcomed Regent Patterson. He noted that the student regent position is a great opportunity, which he hopes Jared will throw himself into over the next 12 months. It will help him in terms of his thinking, the way he presents himself, and the way he listens because a great part of this job is listening and discerning.

### **Board Appointments for the 2024-2025 Academic Year**

Chair Mfume announced appointments to the Standing and Special Committees. He appointed Regent Patterson to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Regent Gilliam. Regent Patterson was also appointed to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Regent Wilkinson. Regents Ellis, Malcom and Wilkinson were appointed to the Innovation and Research Committee, chaired by Regent Stokes. Finally, Regent Sherman was appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and was reappointed to the Morgan State University Foundation as the Board representative.

### **Remarks by the Chair**

Chair Mfume thanked Regents for taking part in a few recent events since the last Board meeting to include: the Spring Commencement Exercises (graduate and undergraduate ceremonies), Alumni Day Class Reunion and Luncheon, and the Board Retreat. He highlighted some upcoming events to include: the New Student Induction Ceremony, Matriculation Convocation, 40<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Gala, Homecoming Football Game, Founders Day Convocation, and the annual Christmas Concert and Regents' Reception. He extended appreciation again to Regents for making time in their busy schedules for the University to stand with the President and students at many different events throughout the year. It was noted that Regent Stokes will be the keynote speaker at tomorrow's Faculty and Staff Institute. 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 22, 2024. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

### **Report of the President**

Dr. Wilson began by welcoming Mr. Patterson officially to the seat as a member of the Board of Regents. He stated that he was impressed with Regent Patterson who is a rising senior from California. He provided a report to the Board covering some major developments that occurred at the University since the last meeting in May 2024. Those highlights include: (a) New Leadership Promotions; (b) Alumni Luncheon; (c) Spring Commencement; (d) MSU's Choir trip to

Greece; (e) Marching Band's trip to France; (f) dedication of the Enolia housing development; (g) record in research awards and expenditures; (h) enrollment update; (i) construction update; (j) scholar athletes; (k) Morgan President at Harvard; (l) Black to San Francisco; (m) Morgan in the media; and (n) upcoming events – breakfast on the mall and the national conference on campus violence.

Chair Mfume extended thanks to members of the university administration to include Dr. Turner (enrollment and retention), Mr. LaChina (permanent appointment), Ms. McCalla (management of numerous projects as well as the extensive profile on her in the Baltimore Banner), and Dr. May (patents and research funding).

Regent Pieninck commended Dr. Turner and her team for being able to deliver record growth in the midst of an incredible amount of uncertainty, volatility and so many changes in the rules (i.e., FAFSA). Dr. Wilson commented that our goal was to reach 10,000 students by 2030. We are now six years ahead of schedule.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to adopt the President's Report. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Parker-Warren. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

Chair Mfume provided an update from Executive Committee meeting on August 2, 2024. He stated that the meeting was informational in nature and there were no items for action.

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

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

Regent Gilliam stated that there were two items for action brought before the Committee.

- **Performance Accountability Report** – The University is required to submit a Performance Accountability Report annually. It includes both the narrative and actual/estimated data. There were a lot of accomplishments and successes with the goals – (1) Enhancing Student Success – record enrollment, 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with a six-year retention rate over 70%, vaccination sites, wellness days and over 200 trained on mental health first aid; (2) Faculty Ascendancy – increase in tenured and tenure track faculty; (3) Elevating Morgan's Status – reached \$50 million in expenditures required for R-1 status; (4) Improving Infrastructure – increased housing availability; (5) Premier Anchor Institution – established 33 new partnerships; and (6) Accelerate Global Education Initiatives – increased international enrollment. The Committee also discussed areas requiring attention to include: graduation rate of undergraduate students, diversity of undergraduate students, number of transfer students from Maryland, alumni giving and philanthropic donations.

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

- **Title IX Policy Revisions** – Regent Gilliam stated that this item was also reviewed by the Finance and Facilities Committee. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on July 29<sup>th</sup> and agreed to the policies as presented with a request to revise (clarify) the language on relationship violence.

Chair Mfume stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee had joint jurisdiction on this matter to be compliant with federal law. The policy revisions were unanimously adopted by both committees. There was a technical and conforming matter that came up since then, which ordinarily would require the Board to ratify the action taken by the two committees. However, since there was a slight change, a full vote of acceptance is required. Before opening the floor for a vote, he yielded the floor to Ms. Tara Berrien, Assistant VP for Diversity and EEO, to briefly talk about the one change.

Ms. Berrien stated that the change pertains to the relationship violence definition. It is not a separate offense under the policy; it is simply an incident that would allow the Title IX Coordinator to intervene with any supportive measures should the Offices of Student Conduct or Title IX be aware of any behaviors between the individuals who are in a dating or domestic relationship before it becomes physical or sexual.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to adopt the Title IX Policy Revisions – Sex Discrimination, Non-Discrimination and Code of Student Conduct – as amended. It was MOVED by Regent Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Malcom. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Regent Gilliam highlighted the information items to include: (i) Academic Affairs – faculty promotion and tenure (10+ full professors, most in recent Morgan history), new faculty members (47 in 2023-2024), 10-year accreditation for Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Ivy League School partnerships (Brown, Dartmouth, Harvard and Yale), and the James Baldwin centennial celebration; (ii) Enrollment Management – app created (Navigate 360 for courses and appointments for students) as well as a chat box to aid students in math and English courses; (iii) Student Affairs –

Counseling and Health Center had close to 2,000 appointments each, and the Food Resource Center received close to \$500,000 from community partners; (iv) SGA – introduction of new SGA officers (President Tamera Trimuel and Vice President MarKayla Wilson) and the objectives of the Renaissance Administration; and (v) Athletics – academic progress rate (APR) for the basketball team, legal updates with NCAA membership, and student athlete compensation.

Chair Mfume asked if everyone was familiar with the Fizz app. Regent Gilliam stated that it was created during COVID as a way of communicating with students on campus. It has since turned more negative to a platform for people to anonymously post complaints about professors and students. Dr. Wilson stated that it is a private social media platform directed at college and high school students. They can go onto the platform and enter almost anything, which is exactly what they do anonymously. It is a bullying platform, one that threatens students in certain ways and contributes negatively to the mental health and wellness of our students. Regent Patterson commented that is detrimental to the campus culture, enabling students to pretty much say anything anonymously. The majority of things that are put on the platform are not things that uplift the Morgan State community, but rather targets a specific student or faculty member. He noted that he definitely supports the initiative by SGA to disband it.

Chair Mfume thanked Regent Gilliam, Dr. Wilson and Regent Patterson for their comments and observations. The platform has very serious mental health implications recognized by the National Mental Health Association, which can oftentimes lead to suicide amongst a very young and impressionable segment of the population who cannot defend themselves once things are said, assumed to be true and repeated. He believes it is a great move by the new SGA administration to ban its use on campus.

### **Finance and Facilities Committee**

Regent Malcom stated that the Committee received updates from (i) Facilities, Design and Construction Management – continued work on deferred maintenance, recently completed facilities (Hurt, Legacy, Baldwin, Cummings and HHS), and meeting or exceeding MBE targets; (ii) Research and Economic Development – amazing growth over the past 4-5 years, number of proposals, increase in the number of agencies giving us support, units seeking grants and writing proposals, training around budgeting and grants management, and elements necessary for a steady pipeline of doctoral production; (iii) Institutional Advancement – advancement trajectory and positive media attention; (iv) Enrollment Management – kudos on the steady flow of students and enrollment levels; and (v) Finance and Administration – ended the year with a small surplus.

She stated that the Committee has three action items.

- **FY 2026 Tuition, Housing and Board Rate Adjustments** – Regent Malcom reminded the Board that there were no increases to tuition or fees during COVID. The University, however, cannot continue on that trajectory. The proposed rate increases were presented to the Committee at the last meeting in May so that the Committee could live with the numbers for a while and understand where we need to go. She shared Regent Carter's observation about Morgan's increasing value and importance of articulating that value proposition. As such, the administration is seeking approval of a 2% increase in tuition, a 4% increase in housing (required by the lease agreements, two facilities not included in this recommendation), and a 10% increase in board rates. The item received unanimous approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Regent Parker-Warren commented that she understands the need to raise tuition, which always touches her heart. She noted that expenses are going up for the school as well as students and we should be cognizant of that and very respectful in the way we handle it. Dr. Wilson stated that the administration handles these matters with the highest level of care and concern. It is with that in mind that the University did not propose any tuition increases in 2020, 2021 and 2022. It was noted that tuition at Morgan is the second lowest amongst public institutions in the State of Maryland.

Regent Gilliam inquired about the increased amount of scholarship funds associated with raising tuition. Dr. Wilson responded that Morgan has traditionally led the State in the percent of revenue we take in that goes back to students in the form of scholarships (approximately 25% - 30%). Further, with the Chapter 41 funds, we have allocated additional millions of dollars for student financial aid. Dr. Kara Turner, SVP for Enrollment Management and Student Success, indicated that her team would need to do some analysis in order to provide the hard numbers. Mr. David LaChina, EVP for Finance and Administration, commented that our tuition discount rate is roughly 36% (approaching 40%). He added that we give a substantial amount back to students, much more than the average institution.

Regent Gilliam asked about proposed fee increases. Regent Malcom responded that there are no increases to fees.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to adopt the FY 2026 Tuition, Housing and Board Rate Adjustments. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- **Marble Hall Gardens (MHG) Lease Amendment** – In response to continued enrollment growth projections and demand for housing to support new and returning students, an extension of this off-campus lease is needed to support our student housing capacity plan. Regent Malcom stated that in addition to amending the lease, we will de-densify the facility beginning in the fall of 2025 resulting in fewer beds but maintaining the same number of apartments to begin to address the quality of life/student living experience. The item received unanimous approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Regent Sherman inquired about the length of the lease extension and conditions that would warrant legal termination. Mr. LaChina responded that the extension is for seven years. He has not looked closely at the termination provisions since the University will need to lease beds for a significant period of time as part of its capacity planning. It was noted that MHG is a fairly low cost environment that is very close to campus in comparison to other more costly inventory in the market. Mr. LaChina commented that we would cancel the more expensive leases, which are farther from campus, first before considering such action with MHG as a last option.

Chair Mfume stated that this matter will be rolled over to the Closed Session to enable the Assistant Attorney General and the Office of General Counsel to review the original lease for information pertaining to termination, which was not included in the lease extension. There was no objection.

- **Enolia Master Lease Term Sheet** – This housing project is sponsored by a local developer and is being developed in collaboration with the University specifically for housing Morgan students (we would be able to lease the entire facility). It is the only such project within close proximity (walking distance) to the campus designed to support students and provide a different experience. The Finance and Facilities Committee was asked to review and consider the non-binding term sheet, which received unanimous approval.

Chair Mfume asked for clarification regarding the non-binding term sheet. Mr. LaChina responded that the lease will be binding. The term sheet outlines the initial commercial terms that the University has agreed to, which will inform how we negotiate the lease. The administration wanted to ensure that the Board was informed and in agreement with the major commercial terms. The full lease will be presented to the Board for approval in November.

Mr. Faulk suggested that the matter be rolled over to the Closed Session for further discussion. There was no objection.

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

Regent Ellis stated that the Committee receive updates from Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Audit. There was a robust discussion about the formulation of the risk assessment template, which was very fruitful as well as a discussion concerning the legislative audit. There was one action item (draft Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Plan), which was approved by the Committee. He noted that the plan will be presented to the full Board for adoption in November.

#### **New Business**

There were no new business items brought forward for the consideration.

#### **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)(1)(7)(9)(10) of the Open Meetings Act. In Closed Session, the Board will consider off-campus housing leases and receive updates on EEO, Campus Safety, Student Athlete Compensation, Maryland College of Osteopathic Medicine, FOP and from the Evaluation Committee. 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 Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam to adjourn the Public Session. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Public Session adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

#### **Marble Hall Gardens Lease Amendment and Enolia Master Lease Term Sheet (Closed Session)**

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Marble Hall Gardens Lease Amendment and the Enolia Master Lease Term Sheet en bloc. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Parker-Warren. 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 6, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Richardson Library  
Conference Room

Motion to close meeting made by: Regent Malcom

Seconded by: Regent Gilliam

Members voting in favor: All Regents in attendance

Opposed:

Abstaining:

Absent: Regent Hunter

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

**General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b)(1)(7)(9)(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;

(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;

\_\_\_ (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

X (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.

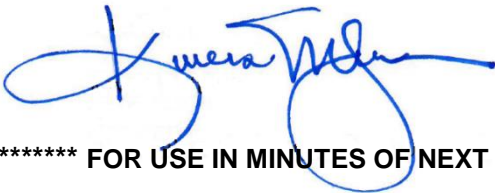
**FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

1. To consider the Marble Hall Gardens Lease Amendment.
2. To consider the Enolia Master Lease Term Sheet.
3. To receive an update from the Evaluation Committee.
4. To receive an EEO Report.
5. To receive an update on Campus Safety.
6. To receive an update on FOP Negotiations.
7. To receive an update on Student Athlete Compensation.
8. To receive an update on the Maryland College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**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):**