

Public Session Minutes

The meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Kweisi Mfume at 12:01 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; Ms. Emily Hunter, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, Regent; Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Regent; Mr. Jared Patterson, Student Regent; Mr. Brian Pieninck, Regent; Mr. William Sherman, Regent; 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

Remarks by the Chair

Chair Mfume opened the meeting by welcoming Regents, university administration, and members of the public in attendance. He extended appreciation to Regents for taking part in various events since the last Board meeting to include: Annual Faculty and Staff Institute; New Student Induction Ceremony; Matriculation Convocation; Grand Opening of New and Newly Renovated Residence Halls; Annual Scholarship Luncheon; School of Global Journalism and Communication Honors Dean Emeritus DeWayne Wickham; Grand Opening of the Health and Human Services Center; Dean Emeritus Eugene DeLoatch Lecture Hall Dedication; 40th Annual Homecoming Gala; and Founders Day Convocation. He stated that it does not go unnoticed each time a member of this Board goes beyond the Board meetings and interacts with students and the larger community as a representative of the MSU Board of Regents. Chair Mfume highlighted a few upcoming events to include: Fall Commencement; the Annual Choir Holiday Concert and Regents' Reception; and the next quarterly Board meeting to be held on February 4, 2025. He also 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 August 6, 2024. 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 August 2024. Those highlights include: (a) new leadership hire – Executive Director for the National Center for the Elimination of Educational Disparities; (b) fall 2024 enrollment; (c) fall move-in; (d) Matriculation Convocation; (e) New Student Induction Ceremony; (f) President's fall town hall; (g) Homecoming – gala, parade, football game and security; (h) opening/reopening of buildings; (i) presidential distinguished speaker series; (j) Founders Day Convocation; (k) Morgan faculty and staff; (l) Morgan students; and (m) Morgan student athletes.

Regent Stokes expressed excitement by all of the reports shared, which started yesterday during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. You can see the footprints and fingerprints of everyone, which speaks to the leadership of Dr. Wilson. She commended Ms. DeCordova for the phenomenal job she has done in raising the University's brand. She concluded with overall kudos on the accomplishments of our students, and in the areas of enrollment, research and others.

Regent Carter commented that, in this day and age when we start talking about millions of dollars, sometimes in meetings he has to remind our people that it has not always been that way. The report made him think of what he is doing as pastor of a church in the urban city, which is similar to what Morgan, as an institution, is essentially doing in an urban environment. He noted that this is probably one of the most expansive and exciting reports he has received from the President. It is a phenomenal piece in terms of the growth, development and where we are now.

Dr. Wilson stated that it is because of the team that we have in place at Morgan, the camaraderie we try to instill amongst the team, and the desire that they work laterally before they work vertically that has resulted in what we see happening at the University. He is here as the vessel articulating the many things taking place.

Chair Mfume recognized SGA representatives in attendance – Tamera Trimuel (President) and MarKayla Wilson (Vice President) – and yielded the floor to them for brief remarks. Ms. Trimuel stated that they are excited to be here. They are moving and shaking much like the Board. They feel like they have increased the student experience a lot and that the Board is doing the same. They are just super excited.

Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Mfume stated that there was no information to report from the Executive Committee.

Report of the Standing Committees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Gilliam highlighted the information items to include: (i) Academic Affairs – degree programs (32 new programs between 2021-2024 with an enrollment of 800+), Morgan Completes You Program (robust discussion about clarity of the website's marketing/target group and the program's goals), program duplication (seven attempts since 2023), modality change request for M.S. in Nursing, new faculty hires (148 since 2021), and class offering increases due to enrollment increase; (ii) Enrollment Management – record enrollment (2,369 freshmen), freshmen female (63%) to male (36%) ratio, and black male initiative task force; (iii) Student Affairs – opening of four residence halls, introduction of the Enolia (leased property for student housing), successful homecoming, and Counseling Center's new home (HHS); (iv) SGA – reallocation of funds in support of the band and choir, need for additional housekeeping staff and learning assistance, initiatives (collaborative voting registration, outdoor space to memorialize Morgan students, removal of Fizz app from Morgan's Wi-Fi), pitch program, and scholarships; and (v) Athletics – academic progress rate (reached 1,000 in 2023-2024, averaging 988, in many benchmarks – the highest score in Morgan's history), graduation success rate (79% - another all-time high), wrestling joined the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association, and Ms. Freeman-Patton appointed as Co-Chair of the Women's Sports Foundation College Subcommittee.

Chair Mfume inquired about Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) in terms of looming deadlines or mandates set by governing bodies in higher education that we should be aware of. Regent Gilliam stated that the subject was not discussed as the Committee would like to have a deep dive meeting to understand it better. Dr. Wilson commented that he and Ms. Freeman-Patton have been discussing this and they will be prepared to give the Board a full briefing at the February meeting, especially in light of the House settlement case and the impact that it will have beyond NIL. Mr. Melvin Hines, Deputy Director of Athletics, noted that there are some deadlines as it relates to the House settlement and decisions to be made by institutions and conference-wide. He added that NIL is a different space and it as well as the House settlement are something very unique to college athletics. Chair Mfume concluded that further discussion would be rolled into the Closed Session so that the Board can have the ability to consult with counsel to get legal advice.

Finance and Facilities Committee

Regent Malcom stated that the Committee received updates from (i) Facilities, Design and Construction Management – overall plan for deferred maintenance continues; (ii) Research and Economic Development – new research support trending well toward \$100M, working diligently to understand the challenges/barriers related to Ph.D. production (assembling a group to look at curricular offerings in the social, behavioral and economic sciences similar to the blue-ribbon panel on STEM research expansion), and Morgan continues to distinguish itself in patenting (among the top 100); (iii) Institutional Advancement – in the planning and preparation stage (looking at policy changes) in order to be able to move forward with launching a campaign and the University receiving incredible media attention with people noticing what is going on here; (iv) Enrollment Management – black male initiative – different mix of top student majors that tend to be in areas dominated by females and looking internally at the kind of curricula offerings to attract students or message them differently; and (v) Finance and Administration – Moody's affirmation of our A+ bond rating supported by the high enrollment we have been able to maintain.

She stated that the Committee has two action items.

- **Enolia Lease** – The Enolia housing project is sponsored by local developer MCB Real Estate, and is being developed in collaboration with the University specifically for housing Morgan students. It is the only such project within a close proximity (walking distance) to the campus designed to support students. Regent

Malcom stated that the Committee reviewed the lease. She reminded the Board that it approved the terms at the August meeting. There are a few items that have not been fully completed; however, the Committee felt comfortable with asking that the President be given the authority to clean up those areas. The item received unanimous approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the Enolia Lease. It was MOVED by Regent Pieninck and SECONDED by Regent Turnipseed. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- **Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) Supplemental Letter of Intent** – Regent Malcom indicated that given the continued increases in enrollment and demand for student housing, the University is planning a comprehensive approach to student housing development and renovations over the next 10 years. Phases I, II and III (Thurgood Marshall housing and dining facility and Legacy Tower) have been completed and are operational. These facilities were successfully developed in collaboration with MEDCO. MEDCO has also been assisting the University in developing the revised student housing master plan. She added that we are working on an ambitious project of renovating three facilities – Baldwin and Cummings (completed) and Harper-Tubman (next spring) – while planning to demolish and rebuild O’Connell. The Board previously approved part of the advance to MEDCO. However, the project has become much bigger that will require a supplement to the amount that was approved.

Mr. David LaChina, EVP for Finance and Administration, stated that, in November 2023, the Board approved predevelopment costs associated with the renovation of Harper-Tubman and O’Connell in collaboration with MEDCO in the amount of \$3 million. After extensive project feasibility, analysis and planning for these two important student housing projects, an additional \$6 million is being requested to maintain development momentum for a total of \$9 million. These predevelopment costs (new cap of \$9 million) are expected to be reimbursed to the University as part of any related project financing.

Regent Malcom commented that what we are looking at now is a bit more complicated than what we started with. It is not just looking at the residence halls but also associated parking, etc. The item received unanimous approval by the Finance and Facilities Committee. Dr. Wilson added that the proposed new O’Connell Hall project will include a dining hall to accommodate enrollment growth and to avoid having all the dining facilities on the south end of campus.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the MEDCO Supplemental Letter of Intent. It was MOVED by Regent Turnipseed and SECONDED by Regent Carter. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Regent Malcom concluded that the Committee received updates on (i) the capital budget request; (ii) engagement with MSU Foundation – what we will need to move forward; (iii) status of negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police; (iv) campus safety; and (v) real estate opportunities in Closed Session.

Audit and Institutional Assessment Committee

Regent Ellis stated that the Committee receive updates, in Closed Session, on the annual financial statement audit results from CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA); risk assessment template and project management initiative from Mr. Curbeam; and the legislative audit final status report and current audit status from Mr. Mauer.

He yielded the floor to Mr. Abraham Mauer to present the item for action.

- **FY 2025 Audit Plan** – Mr. Mauer, Director of Internal Audit and Management Review, stated that the office performs its own risk assessment each year. The audit plan (essentially process audits looking at administrative processes in various units) was developed to tackle some of the higher risk items that they would like to verify and obtain reasonable assurance that significant risks are mitigated to an acceptable level.

Chair Mfume opened the floor for a motion to approve the FY 2025 Audit Plan. It was MOVED by Regent Pieninck and SECONDED by Regent Parker-Warren. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Dr. Wilson reported that Morgan had a clean, unmodified audit with no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies. The news received unanimous applause by the Board.

New Business

Chair Mfume directed the Board’s attention to two articles (hard copies provided), both of which were published by the Chronicle of Higher Education on November 6th – “Outsized Growth at Nation’s HBCUs Sparks Identity Crisis” and “When Trump Was First Elected, College Leaders Wrote Statements About It. And Now?” He commented that they are very thoughtful pieces, particularly with respect to HBCUs, and encouraged Regents to read them.

On behalf of Dr. Wilson, Chair Mfume asked the Board to give some thought about the upcoming discussions before the Maryland General Assembly, which will likely take place in late January/early February. Funding from the General Assembly for the University is crucial to our existence. Dates for the President’s open testimony to the chair and ranking members of the House and Senate Subcommittees are usually shared. It would be good for Board members to join him, if they can, in support of the University.

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 consider an Honorary Degree Candidate Recommendation and receive updates on Campus Safety and Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). 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 Gilliam and SECONDED by Regent Wilkinson to adjourn the Public Session. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Public Session adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

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 Sherman and SECONDED by Regent Wilkinson. 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, November 12, 2024 Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Richardson Library
Conference Room

Motion to close meeting made by: Regent Gilliam

Seconded by: Regent Wilkinson

Members voting in favor: All Regents in attendance

Opposed:

Abstaining:

Absent:

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;

(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.

___ (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 an Honorary Degree Candidate Recommendation.
2. To receive an update on Campus Safety.
3. To consult with counsel regarding Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).

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):