

Public Session Minutes

The emergency meeting of the Morgan State University Board of Regents was called to order by Chairman Kweisi Mfume at 12:06 p.m.

Present: Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chairman, Regent; General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Vice Chair, Regent; Dr. Linda Gilliam, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, Regent; Mr. Stanley Nwakamma, Student Regent; Mr. Wayne Resnick, Regent; Ms. Shelonda Stokes, Regent; Dr. Marquis Walker, Regent; Mr. Winston Wilkinson, Regent

Absent: Dr. Harold Carter, Regent; Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Regent

Staff: Dr. David Wilson, President; Dr. Kevin Banks, VP for Student Affairs; Mr. Sidney Evans, VP for Finance and Management; Mr. Thomas Faulk, Principal Counsel for Morgan State University, Office of the Attorney General; Mrs. Cassandra Grogan, Executive Administrator to the Board of Regents; Ms. Sherita Harrison, Interim General Counsel; Mr. David LaChina, Deputy CFO; Ms. Kim McCalla, Associate VP for Facilities, Design and Construction Management; Dr. Kim Sydnor, Dean of the School of Community Health and Policy; Dr. Kara Turner, VP for Enrollment Management and Student Success; Dr. Don-Terry Veal, Chief of Staff; Dr. Lesia Young, Provost and SVP for Academic Affairs

The Chairman offered an overview of the agenda and stated that the Board would be guided by our attorneys should the need arise that requires the Board to reconvene in Closed Session.

Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Regents and members of the public in attendance. As a result of discussions during the Board meeting on August 4th and in light of recent studies and information published, President Wilson decided to revisit the initial reopening plan along with senior members of the University administration. The updated plan and recommendation is being presented today. Chairman Mfume noted that we are quickly approaching the start of the fall 2020 semester and a final plan needs to be approved by the Board given the policy and governance issues associated with this extremely poignant matter. He then yielded the floor to President Wilson for remarks and an overview of the proposal to be considered.

Campus Reopening Plan

President Wilson presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Reopening Plan – Morgan State University Online Model for Fall 2020". He briefly discussed key points of the original plan, which consisted of a full opening, hybrid instruction (faculty option and student choice), reduced numbers of staff and students on campus, reduced residential housing capacity, and required testing. Under this plan, a \$25 million budget deficit was projected. Funding from the CARES Act has covered most of the lost revenue and campus investments. He noted that since then, there has been a dramatic uptick in COVID-19 cases in Baltimore and in several other cities (Manhattan, NY; Boston and Cambridge, MA; Santa Clara County, PA; Cook County, IL;

and the District of Columbia). Therefore, the recommendation is to: (1) offer online/remote instruction for the fall 2020 semester with the exception of a few unique courses which have lab components, i.e., nursing, engineering or some upper level science courses; (2) house 400-600 students with extenuating circumstances – those undergraduate students without a safe alternative; students whose home situation is not conducive to successful virtual education; international students; and students with specific in-person academic or research requirements. Dr. Wilson added that campus access would be provided to priority groups to include nursing, ROTC, international and full-scholarship honors students; athletes; and those engaged in field work or requiring specialized technology needs. There will be limited services on campus for students (dining, library, computer labs, counseling and health services, limited transportation services, specialized research and instruction laboratories, fabrication facilities, the Vivarium and the ROTC). He also discussed testing protocols for residential students (testing before arriving to campus and testing during the semester on campus) and highlighted the Student Community Responsibility Acknowledgement statement which provides important guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Last, Dr. Wilson commented that the University is exploring a possible pilot study – an interdisciplinary faculty research project around lessons learned in reopening an HBCU campus.

There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed plan to include questions, comments and concerns expressed by members of the Board related to testing protocols, frequency, tracking, student behavior, the handling of students who will reside on campus as well as those residing off campus, and access to the limited services to be offered.

The Chairman stated that a final vote on the reopening plan recommendation would be deferred until the Special Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 11th, to provide the University administration additional time to work out the details with regard to the larger issues and to amend the financial impact statement, if necessary. He also asked the legal team to provide the Board with a liability assessment and impact statement.

In the meanwhile, the University administration was encouraged to begin rolling out certain portions of the plan, to the extent possible (particularly as it relates to messaging), since instruction for the fall semester will be delivered online/remote.

Adjournment

Chairman Mfume called for a motion to adjourn the Public Session. It was MOVED by Regent Ellis and SECONDED by Regent Malcom. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Public Session adjourned at 2:14 p.m.