

## **Public Session Minutes**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Present: Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Chair, Regent; General (Ret.) Larry Ellis, Vice Chair, Regent; Hon. Tracey Parker-Warren, Secretary, Regent; Rev. Dr. Harold Carter, Jr., Regent; Dr. Linda Gilliam, Regent; Dr. Shirley Malcom, 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

Absent: Rev. Dr. Frances Draper, Regent

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

Present: Dr. David Wilson, University President; Dr. Yacob Astatke, AVP for International Affairs; Dr. Kevin Banks, VP for Student Affairs; Mr. Sidney Evans, VP for Finance; Mr. Thomas Faulk, Principal Counsel for Morgan State University, Office of the Attorney General; Ms. Armada Grant, AVP for Human Resources; Mrs. Kassandra Grogan, Executive Administrator for the Board of Regents; Ms. Sherita Harrison, Interim General Counsel; Ms. Donna Howard, VP for Institutional Advancement; Mr. David LaChina, AVP/Deputy CFO; Dr. Willie May, VP for Research and Economic Development; Ms. Kim McCalla, AVP for Facilities, Design and Construction; Dr. Farzad Moazzami, Interim AVP for Academic Affairs; Dr. Adebisi Oladipupo, VP for Information Technology/CIO; Mr. Jeff Palkovitz, Senior Real Estate Counsel, Office of the Attorney General; Dr. Edward Scott, Director of Athletics; Dr. Maurice Taylor, VP for Academic Outreach and Engagement; Dr. Kara Turner, VP for Enrollment Management; Dr. Don-Terry Veal, Chief of Staff to the President; Dr. Lesia Young, Provost and Senior VP for Academic Academics

The Morgan State University Board of Regents held a special meeting on Monday, April 6, 2020 via teleconference. Chairman Mfume called the Public Session to order at 7:07 p.m. He indicated that this is a special called meeting at the request of the administration with concurrence and approval of the Board. The Chairman offered an overview of the agenda.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the Regents, Dr. Wilson and members of his Cabinet, alumni, and members of the public. He extended his appreciation to members of the Board for adjusting their schedules to enable them to participate in this special meeting. He extended warm regards to individuals, their families and loved ones, adding that he hopes everyone is safe and healthy in the middle of this pandemic. He then yielded the floor to the President for brief opening remarks.

President Wilson thanked the Board for making time for this special meeting. He stated that the last few weeks have been very challenging for the University. However, he appreciates the level of teamwork that has been exhibited during this period by all members of his Cabinet as well as the guidance and support received from the Board as we make decisions in very rapid fashion. He also appreciates the Board convening last month for the called emergency meeting and passing the resolution that authorizes him to be able to make those decisions and to report back to the Board, as appropriate, when those decisions have been made. He indicated that he has endeavored to do that—keeping the Board in the loop with regard to ongoing issues and the decisions that we have made at Morgan.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Mfume called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 4, 2020 Board meeting. It was MOVED by Regent Stokes and SECONDED by Regent Malcom to adopt the minutes. THE MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**Update – COVID-19 Impact on Morgan****Remote Instruction**

Dr. Young reported that we are in our third week of remote instruction at Morgan. She stated that faculty members responded to the challenge and quickly transferred courses to remote instruction in record time. A virtual faculty meeting was held to ensure that faculty members are prepared and understand the expectations that we have in terms of ensuring that we continue to provide quality instruction to our students although done remotely. The University continues to increase the amount of training and the resources available to both faculty and students to help them while we are in this remote instruction pyramid. We have instituted a pass/fail grading policy that allows students (up until April 26<sup>th</sup>) to elect this option for courses taken this semester. We also implemented this option for faculty members to elect to give students a 'FL', which would not impact students' GPA, instead of an 'F'.

Dr. Young stated that a website has been developed to collect specific information from our students regarding any concerns or challenges they are experiencing with remote instruction, and we are monitoring that site and responding to students on a daily basis. Today, we moved forward with implementing a faculty feedback survey on remote instruction, which will allow us to capture information from faculty to determine their specific needs and how we can quickly respond to assist them while we are in a remote instruction mode. The leadership team and deans have met with Dr. Taylor and his team regarding preparations for summer instruction in a remote format. As part of the summer school discussion, we identified strategies for increasing enrollment, where we focus on offering high-demand courses and ensuring that such courses are on the schedule and perhaps offering some courses that may attract new students. Finally, conversations and preparations are underway for faculty members to undergo Quality Matters training so that they are well-prepared should this mode of instruction continue into the fall.

**Move-Out Procedures & Student Concerns**

Dr. Banks reported that there are currently 145 students being housed on campus and in off-campus apartments. As a result of the new stay-at-home orders, the University had to suspend its checkout process, which caused lots of anxiety for students. It is hoped that the process can resume on May 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the Food Resource Center had to be closed last week. We are exploring the use of electronic gift cards as an alternative.

Dr. Banks stated that student activities have continued in a virtual format to include the Mr. & Ms. Morgan Pageant and SGA elections. Information has been communicated to students with regard to refunds, advising those who may receive a refund that they can expect to receive pro-rated funds in 30 days. Comprehensive cleaning plans are being developed for the summer. The University is also looking into shipping and storage items for out-of-state students who are unable to get to campus to retrieve their possessions.

**Access Orientation and Open House**

Dr. Turner reported that access orientation, which usually takes place four times during the summer, has now been moved completely online and the associated registration fee will be waived. All of the sessions typically given over the four-day period are being made virtual to include live chat periods so that parents and students will be able to interact with the access team and ask questions. There will be a freshmen Class of 2024 Convocation held during the first week of class since we will not be doing that over the summer. She noted that these changes have been very well received, adding that a total of 147 students have registered for access orientation as of today.

Dr. Turner stated that there are a number of initiatives with regard to virtual recruitment. We have live virtual information sessions which take the place of our campus tours and high school visits. We also have live chats during specific hours daily where students can chat with an admissions representative, and we

have virtual office hours for admissions officers where students can schedule an appointment for longer one-on-one meetings. Virtual tours are now operable (special thanks to Public Relations), and we also have a Virtual Student Engagement Task Force that is working with all the divisions across campus to develop and create engaging content for our incoming students including the development of a virtual open house, admitted students day and various other ways to showcase the student experience. Finally, with regard to enrollment, we are down 9% this week. As previously indicated, we are planning a number of initiatives that have been mentioned and we plan to send gift boxes to all admitted students.

Dr. Wilson commented that discussions are underway to consider the real possibility of no increases for the upcoming academic year and what the fiscal impact will be if that becomes reality. The University will be sure to keep the Finance and Facilities Committee updated with regard to any proposed recommendations.

### **Laptops**

Dr. Oladipupo reported that the University has received 155 Windows laptops from the state which have all been distributed to faculty and staff to enable telework and remote instruction. Another order has been placed through the state for 50 additional Windows laptops expected to arrive later this week. We also have 45 Chromebooks and iPads of which 25 have been distributed. He noted, however, that the Chromebooks operating systems do not support a lot of the instruction. With that in mind, he is working with Dr. Scott, dean of the School of Engineering, and AMIE (Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering) to determine how we may obtain additional Windows laptops at no cost to MSU for our students.

### **Fiscal Impact – Hiring/Spending Freeze and Cost Containment Plan**

Mr. Evans stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation as is the associated financial impact. We have been conducting continuous analyses to try to determine and estimate what the financial impact will be. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the University is projecting a financial impact of \$22.2M which is comprised of the following components: student refunds (\$8M), personal/hardship leave and lost productivity (\$8.5), technological upgrades (\$1.5M), learning management systems (\$1.3M), and operating expenses (\$2.9M). As a result of these additional unplanned expenses, we have already instituted COVID-19 cost containment strategies to include a number of actions such as a travel moratorium, a hiring and spending freeze, and purchasing card restrictions. It is anticipated that the cost containment plan will be carried over into the next fiscal year, which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>, and will remain in place until we see changes in enrollment and other areas.

### **Federal Stimulus Bill**

President Wilson stated that we anticipate receiving roughly \$18M as a result of the Cares Act – approximately \$9M from the larger pool of money set aside for all higher education institutions in the United States estimated at \$12 billion, and another \$9M as part of the special appropriation included in the bill for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) totaling \$575 million of the \$1.06 billion smaller pool of money. He added that he has been in touch with the national associations in Washington, DC, and the Department of Education as to when the funds might be released and what the regulations in terms of using the money would look like.

Chairman Mfume reminded Dr. Wilson of the Board's prior request during the last special meeting to receive a full fiscal impact statement at the May Board meeting, and a second report at the August meeting.

### **Approval of Tuition for Pilot Programs in Ghana**

Regent Malcom thanked members of the Finance and Facilities Committee for their willingness to convene two additional meetings on February 27<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the most recent meeting, the matter of tuition for the pilot programs to be offered in Ghana was brought before the Finance Committee for review and consideration. The Finance Committee voted to approve the proposed tuition and refers it now to the full Board for action.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the Tuition for Pilot Programs in Ghana. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Carter to approve the tuition. THE MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Chairman stated that the Board would reconvene in Closed Session to consider items specifically exempted from public consideration under § 3-305(b)(3)(7)(14) of the Open Meetings Act. In Closed Session, the Board will discuss and consider the Hoen Building Lease and New Food Service Vendor Contract. The Board may reconvene in Public Session at the conclusion of the Closed Session, if necessary.

After reading the citation into the record, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the PUBLIC SESSION to move into CLOSED SESSION. It was MOVED by Regent Taylor and SECONDED by Regent Parker-Warren to adjourn the PUBLIC SESSION. The MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The PUBLIC SESSION adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**Approval of Hoen Building Lease (in Closed Session)**

Chairman Mfume called for a motion to approve the Hoen Building Lease. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Carter. Regent Gilliam, Regent Parker-Warren and Regent Taylor ABSTAINED. The MOTION CARRIED by a majority vote.

**Approval of the New Food Service Vendor (in Closed Session)**

Chairman Mfume called for a motion to approve the selection of a New Food Service Vendor. It was MOVED by Regent Malcom and SECONDED by Regent Gilliam. THE MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

Date: Monday, April 6, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Teleconference

Motion to close meeting made by: Regent Taylor

Seconded by: Regent Parker-Warren

Members voting in favor: All Regents in attendance

Opposed:

Abstaining:

Absent: Regent Draper

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

**General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b)(3)(7)(14):**

\_\_\_ (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;

**X** (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.

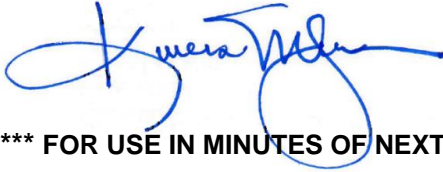
**FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

1. To discuss the Hoen Building Lease.
2. To discuss the Food Service Vendor Contract.

**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):**