



Florida A&M University

National Alumni Association, Inc.

REGINALD J. MITCHELL, SR., ESQ.

RECORDING SECRETARY

NATIONAL OFFICES

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Florida A&M University National Alumni Association (FAMUNAA)

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Call to Order

President Clark Called the Meeting to order.

Invocation

Opening Prayer was done by Chaplain Keith Shannon.

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by the Recording Secretary

Executive Board Members Participating:

Leroy Bell, Northeast Florida Regional Vice President (RVP);
Angela Bledsoe, Parliamentarian
Eleanor Carter, Midwest MAL;
Greg Clark, President;
Carolyn Collins, Past NAA President;
Carmen Cummings-Martin, FAMU NAA Executive Director (Non-Voting)
Jean Downing, RVP;
Cassie Farmer, Northeast MAL;
Regina Gardner, FAMU NAA Fiscal Operations (Non-Voting)
Tirrell Hamilton, Far West RVP;
Derris King, Midwest RVP;
Charles Lewis, 1st Vice President
Skip McClemore, Southern MAL
Jimmy Miller, FAMU President Designee
Reginald Mitchell, Recording Secretary;
Thomas Mitchell, Immediate-Past President
Juanita Moore, Financial Secretary;
James Moran, Treasurer;
Akunna Olumba, General Counsel;
Yolanda Pinkard, Southern RVP;

Artisha Polk, Corresponding Secretary;
Bob Porter, Sargent-At-Arms;
Kier Riley, FAMU Student Alumni Association;
Van Russ, Far West Member-At-Large (MAL);
Keith Shannon, Chaplain;
Pat Shaw, Florida Region MAL;
Mary Smith, Third Vice President;
Kathy Times, Publicity Director

Appointed Officers:

Marian Gibbons, Student Recruitment Chair
Tomia Austin

Invited Guests:

Shira Thomas FAMU General Counsel

Invocation

Invocation was done by President Greg Clark.

Quorum

A Quorum was established.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Agenda

Request for approval to upgrade Constant Contact

Action Item: Artisha Polk explained the need to upgrade our e-mail capability to disseminate information to all members and other alumni to keep everyone informed.
We currently pay \$35 per month to send e-mails to 2,500 people.

Reginald Mitchell gave financial information as to the various options available to upgrade 2500 e-mails to more than 10,000.

5001-10,000 would increase from \$35 per month to \$85 per month. If we pre-paid we would get a 20% discount \$432 for 6 months. Or 756 for a year. If Pre-paid for a year, we would get a 30% discount

10,001 if prepaid it would be \$195 per month. Prepay \$936 for 6 months, or \$1,538 for a year.

Dr. Collins asked questions about the levels. The answer was 2,500 to 5,000 (\$55 per month); 5,001 to 10,000 or 10,001 to 25,000. We actually have just under 2,500 right now.

General Bell inquired about the cost for up to 10,000. The answer was \$432 flat for 6 months. Cassie Farmer asked how we would address bad addresses. We currently coordinate with Chapter Presidents to get updates for those members within chapters. Others are updated directly via the Financial Secretary. Dr. Collins asked if Constant Contact has a feature for e-mailing or texting to cell phones, or robo-calls. Reginald Mitchell did not know, but he will check.

It was moved by Reginald Mitchell and seconded by Artisha Polk to upgrade Constant Contact upgrades from 10,000 max contacts at \$756 for 12 months at a 30% discount. General Bell asked about comparing our e-mail service with other companies. Tirrell Hamilton asked the same question. The response from Artisha Polk was that Constant Contact has been our service for 3 years and we are simply asking to upgrade. We previously compared Mail Chimp, Simply Cast and Constant Contact. General Bell asked to approve the original motion, but now research the other previous companies to compare the price. Reginald Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was amended again by **General Leroy Bell to upgrade to 10,000 contacts and pre-pay for 6 months for \$432.** Reginald Mitchell seconded it.

The President directed the Recording Secretary to take a roll call vote of all Board members.

The motion passed unanimously with 1 abstention by Carolyn Collins.

Current state of affairs of the University with the SGA Elections

Reginald Mitchell summarized the past SGA Elections process. Shira Thomas, FAMU Acting General Counsel interjected to remind the NAA that the matter was under litigation and that she disagreed with some of the synopsis. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that his summary is based upon the Circuit Court Transcript. The President directed the Acting FAMU General Counsel to not interrupt and to wait until Reginald Mitchell finished. Mr. Mitchell finished the summary.

The President clarified that FAMU NAA Board Meetings are for elected NAA National Officers. Board members should not invite members to the meeting again without getting his approval.

Shira Thomas stated that the University was following the state 1004.26(5) and maintaining the integrity of the SGA internal process.

Akunna Olumba says that the SGA should have autonomy, but if there are due process violations, the University should seek to correct that behavior. The disenfranchisement of the students has to be taken seriously. An affected party didn't have the right to speak, yet a decision was made by the SGA Supreme Court. All parties to the dispute were available, but not heard.

President Clark mentioned that he is getting calls about the news concerning the University and wants to know the NAA position. He asked the Board do we want to make a response of concern.

Reginald Mitchell answered James McClemore question and re-summarized the due process that took place.

General Bell stated that Alumni should follow FRIG and support the University. Outside of the “I” in Image, he sees no function of the Alumni in this matter. James McClemore agrees that the NAA should stay out of campus activities and focus on raising funds. We should not take a side until it plays out.

Carolyn Collins doesn’t think we need to do anything publicly. There are some things that we can do that does not interfere with the University. We can follow up with the meeting that was held in 2015. We should set up quarterly meetings. We can do monthly positive op-ed pieces to the media.

Akunna Olumba mentioned her experience with her other alumni association and advocacy experience. The NAA needs to call the university to the carpet when there is something that is done that is not right. There should be a statement saying that we understand what is going on.

Tommy Mitchell mentions that FRIG includes Image Building. We have a responsibility to monitor what is going on with University. We are supposed to be an advocate for this University. He disagrees that there is nothing for the NAA to do. We are a direct-support organization. We should not assume that we don’t have the responsibility to speak out when something is going wrong.

Artisha Polk stated that the University should run the university and the Board of Trustees should do its role. It does not settle well with her that we should do nothing. She read the NAA Constitution Preamble.

Tirrell Hamilton stated that we always have the option to do something, but the question is whether it is public or private. Actually talking with the folks privately in a dialogue maybe where we should be. We may not need to take a public adverse position.

Reggie Mitchell mentioned that there was a University employee that was involved in the election as a campaign manager and this was a conflict of interest. We should not take a public position to harm the current ongoing litigation, but when we do talk privately to the administration they seem to do exactly the opposite of what we are seeking. However, we need to continue to dialogue with the administration to not keep doing things that humiliate the University. The University can, within the SGA Internal Rules, Remand the decision back to the SGA with instructions.

Carolyn Collins reiterated the comments she heard at the BOT meeting. She reiterated that we need to meet with the President.

Tommy Mitchell stated that we recognize that this is in litigation. The BOT got involved after BOG Levine contacted them that this issue is bigger than just an SGA election. They are concerned that a circuit judge could use this as a precedent to get involved in other University internal matters.

James McClemore mentioned that in addition to the Preamble, but

Reginald Mitchell mentioned that it was very telling that the 2 attorneys on the BOT voted not to appeal the decision. After this matter is fully disposed of, he is very interested in either speaking internally with the administration or making a public statement.

Greg Clark stated that the NAA Board has spoken and we will stand tight. Image wise, however, the University has taken a blow. The constant negativity is hurting fundraising. We have some problems that we are going to have to deal with and eventually have to say something.

Tommy Mitchell stated that he heard that there was a petition signed by 3,000 students opposing the action that was taken.

Carolyn Collins stated that we need to pray for these students and FAMU.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.