



Excellence With Caring

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 14, 2020

Sydney Kitson, Chair
Florida Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Dear Chair Kitson:

On December 3, 2020, the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a one-year contract extension for Larry Robinson, Ph.D., to serve as the University President.

Under Dr. Robinson's leadership over the past three years, FAMU has made tremendous strides, including: achieving the University's highest Performance Based Funding model score in 2020; being reaffirmed for 10 years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in 2018 with no recommendations, and named one of 12 members of the 2020 class of Excellence In Assessment designees which recognizes efforts to advance student success outcomes; establishing 2+2 articulation agreements with eighteen Florida College System institutions; securing funds through the U. S. Department of Energy's HBCU Capital Financing program to construct a much needed 700-bed residence hall; and securing legislative funds to finish construction of the Center for Access and Student Success.

Additionally, Dr. Robinson has elevated FAMU as a national leader in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic among HBCUs by appearing on several national programs including: MSNBC, Cox Media Group, Yahoo News, the Black News Channel and LinkedIn News, and being interviewed and quoted by the Washington Post, Politico, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and The Wall Street Journal.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 130,000 tests have been administered at the Bragg Memorial Stadium COVID-19 Test Site which is the largest free site of its kind in the area and serves as a prime example of the University's commitment to partnering with state and local agencies on the behalf of citizens of Florida. Additionally, FAMU received \$1.5 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a COVID-19 testing laboratory and serve as a hub for Florida's HBCUs. This donation complements testing equipment valued at \$2.5 million donated by Thermo-Fisher Scientific.

The University has established or expanded corporate partnerships with the Bank of America, Chevron, Dow Inc., Microsoft, Southern Glazer and Truist Bank to provide internships and jobs for graduates in areas of critical need.

Finally, another one of the highlights of Dr. Robinson's leadership is the U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges" selecting FAMU as the highest-ranked Public HBCU in the nation in 2020 for the second

consecutive year, moving up to number 117 among Top Public Universities, from number 123 a year ago. The FAMU-FSU College of Engineering earned a spot on the badge-eligible list, ranking 69th among the 206 Best Undergraduate Engineering schools offering doctorate degrees. The joint engineering school is ranked second in the state of Florida and serves as model of diversity for other institutions to follow.

All remaining contract terms are unchanged and are compliant with state laws, including statutory provisions governing compensation, termination, and severance.

In accordance with the Board of Governors Regulation 1.001 (5)(c), the FAMU BOT respectfully requests the Board of Governor's confirmation of Dr. Larry Robinson as President of the University. Please contact me or the University's General Counsel, Denise Wallace, if we can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Lawson, Chair
Florida A&M University Board of Trustees

cc: Marshall Criser, III, Chancellor, State University System of Florida
Vickie Shirley, General Counsel, Florida Board of Governors
Larry Robinson, Ph.D., President Florida A&M University

Attachments