



**2018 Accountability Plan Presentation
President Robinson's Talking Points
June 27, 2018**

Introduction

Good morning and thank you Chair Jordan, members of the Strategic Planning Committee, other governors and Chancellor Criser. We want to thank you for this opportunity to present to you the Florida A&M University 2018 Accountability Plan.

In addition to our Board Chair, Kelvin Lawson, we have several members of our Board of Trustees present, Vice Chair Kimberly Moore and Trustee Robert Woody.

Also, joining me at the table today are members of my senior leadership team: Rodner Wright, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Maurice Edington, VP for Strategic Planning and William Hudson, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Before I begin the presentation, I'd like to share some news regarding our SACSCOC accreditation. As you know, several members of my senior leadership team and I were unable to attend the March BOG meeting because we were hosting a SACSCOC on-site reaffirmation committee as part of our decennial accreditation review. I am pleased to report that we had an excellent review and that the committee had no recommendations. We will receive official notification of the outcome at the SACSCOC annual meeting in December, but this is no doubt excellent news.

Accountability Plan Presentation

(Key Initiatives & Investments)

Florida A&M University's 2018 Accountability Plan builds on the work that we began last year with the implementation of our new University Strategic Plan, in which our primary focus is on improving our student success outcomes. Our Accountability Plan outlines the aggressive steps that we are taking to improve retention and graduation rates, increase performance on licensure exams,

increase enrollment of AA transfers from the Florida College System, increase degree production in programs of strategic emphasis, strengthen our academic programs and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations.

I will use the next few slides to highlight the progress that we have made over the past year, as well as to discuss our key strategies and tactics for improving in the areas that remain a challenge for us. **As I will highlight, we are making progress on improving retention and graduation rates, and we have established aggressive goals for improvement.**

Performance Metrics

We have made tremendous progress in reducing the average cost to the student (Metric 3), and we are **currently among the leaders in the SUS in this area.** We will continue to place an emphasis on providing our students with an affordable education. We have worked to increase scholarship funding through innovative initiatives, such as the Save Our Students (SOS) program with our National Alumni Association and we are also working to target and expand internship opportunities.

The data for Metric 4 shows that we continue to make steady improvements on the four-year graduation rate. We acknowledge that we have a lot of work to do in this area. We have set an aggressive goal to achieve a four-year graduation rate of 38% within the next four years and I am confident, as outlined in our Four-Year Graduation Rate Plan, that we are taking the appropriate steps to get there.

Key tactics include:

- Restructuring the Academic Advisement Unit, which includes hiring up to 25 new advisors (\$1.2M investment using recently allocated legislative funding)
- Expanding the use of high-impact practices (Living-Learning Communities, intrusive advising and academic coaching, tutoring and peer-mentoring)
- Promotion and media campaigns that focus on graduating in four-years (“*Finish in Four by Taking 15*”)
- Enhanced early alert and tracking systems
- Strengthening policies and procedures that promote student progression (encourage enrollment in 15 hours per semester; restrict the number of course retakes; accelerate math and English remediation; enhancement of math placement for incoming students)
- Adding faculty in areas where we have bottleneck courses (e.g. math, chemistry)
- Enhancing student recruitment (increase academic profile of freshman cohorts)
- Expanding faculty development (increase faculty use of practices that promote effective student learning)

Over the past year, we have improved on our academic progress rate and we continue to lead the SUS in university access rate. We have seen a decline in the percentage of bachelor's degrees awarded in programs of strategic emphasis, however we are working to address this by improving our advisement system, enhancing our curriculum offerings, and providing additional scholarships in the targeted programs.

We have also made steady progress in increasing the percentage of baccalaureate degrees awarded without excess hours and we have established aggressive goals to show significant improvement over the next four years. A key strategy we are using is to more effectively align incoming students with majors that best fit their academic backgrounds and dispositions.

We have made significant progress in the last year on the six-year graduation rate. As I stated earlier, this is an issue that will continue to receive our full attention as we work towards achieving graduation rates that **are on par with our sister institutions in the SUS.**

Enrollment

As outlined in our new strategic plan, and our 2017 Work Plan, we have taken a strategic approach to enrollment management. This year we reversed the steady decline in enrollment that we had experienced over the past several years. Our enrollment management approach is built around five key strategies:

1. Increasing retention - 82% of the projected growth at the FTIC (first-time-in-college) level will be achieved by retaining a larger number of our students (873 students).
2. Modest growth of newly enrolled FTICs, while **increasing the academic profile** – we are projecting a total increase of just **192** FTIC freshman students over the next four years (i.e. 50 new FTIC freshman per year).
3. Reducing the percentage of profile admits (from 21% of total undergraduate population to 16% over four years – reduction of 154 students)
4. Increasing the enrollment of FCS AA transfers by 26% (224 students)
5. Increasing graduate enrollment by 26% (489 students)

I want to assure you that we will not sacrifice quality for the sake of increasing enrollment. We want to cap our freshman cohort size at around 1,800 students and focus our efforts on increasing their success by continuing the implementation of the initiatives that I described earlier.

As a result of legislative funding, we have made strides to drastically increase our distance education presence. This will create greater flexibility in scheduling, and increase access for students who are employed, need to enroll in summer courses or who experience other scheduling conflicts that prevent them from enrolling in desired courses. We anticipate that the increased access to courses

offered online will lead to increased student success outcomes, particularly with respect to graduation rates, time to degree and student debt.

New Programs

We have identified seven programs that are under consideration this year for BOT approval. These programs are all in high demand areas and will allow FAMU to address critical workforce needs in Florida and across the country. We will be strategic about prioritizing these programs for implementation.

Conclusion

As I conclude, I want to reiterate to you that we have the appropriate level of focus on improving student success. We have made strides in several areas over the past year and we will be even more aggressive this year as we move to implement our Four-Year Graduation Plan and improve performance on licensure exams.

Governors, my team and I are happy to address any questions you may have.

END OF PRESENTATION