

MINUTES
FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 27, 2001

Chairman F. Philip Handy convened the meeting of the Florida Board of Education by telephone conference call, 1505 Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida, at 8:05 a.m., with the following members present: Dr. Linda J. Eads, Ms. Julia Johnson, Dr. William Proctor, and Mrs. Carolyn Roberts.

Members of the staff present were: Jim Horne, Secretary; Dr. Carl Blackwell, Interim Chancellor; Syd McKenzie, Counsel; and Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje.

1. Consideration of Ratification of Interim President, FAMU

Chairman Handy reported that the Board had one item for action, the ratification of the appointment of the Interim President at Florida A & M University, as recommended by the FAMU Board of Trustees. The FAMU Board had nominated Dr. Henry Lewis III to serve as the Interim President of the University. This Board had received the packet of materials sent by the Secretary's Office. Mr. Handy said this Board was to ratify that the FAMU Board of Trustees had followed the process for the selection it had prescribed and to determine that the candidate proposed met the base qualifications for leadership as specified for the position.

Secretary Horne reported that the meetings of the FAMU Board of Trustees had been properly noticed, and that the meetings had been open and public meetings. The FAMU Board had established a process; it had followed that process; and the recommended candidate met the qualifications established as a part of that process. He had verified that these steps had been properly followed. He said the primary responsibility for this Board was to ratify the choice of the FAMU Board of Dr. Henry Lewis III to serve as the University's Interim President.

Dr. Proctor moved that the Florida Board of Education ratify the selection of Dr. Henry Lewis to serve as the Interim President of Florida A & M University, as presented. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and members of the Board concurred.

Mr. Handy asked Dr. Blackwell to prepare a letter to notify the Chair of the Florida A & M University Board of Trustees of this Board's action, and of Dr. Lewis' appointment as Interim President to begin on January 1, 2002. In addition, he asked the staff to prepare a press release of the Board's action.

2. Adjournment

Having no further business, Chairman Handy adjourned the special telephone conference call meeting of the Florida Board of Education at 8:15 a.m., December 27, 2001.

F. Philip Handy,
Chairman

Mary-Anne Bestebreurtje,
Corporate Secretary