

# **FSUS CHARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES**

## **Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 3:30 PM**

**Via Video Conference**

### Members Present

Carlos Villa, Chair; Darryl Marshall, Vice Chair; Dr. Rosezetta Bobo; Dr. Brandon Bowden; Jimmy Cole; Dr. Jimmie Davis; Gillian Gregory; Dr. Toby Park-Gaghan; Amanda Grace; Katie Perkins

### Members Absent

Jimmy Cole

### Ex Officio Members Present

Dr. Christopher Small

### Staff and Guests Present

Dr. Damon Andrew, Dean, FSU College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; Brad Rohrer, Chief Financial Officer, FSUS; Megan Brink, Principal, FSUS; Kate Wasson, Board Clerk

### Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair Villa called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM. Ms. Gregory moved approval of the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Perkins and passed without objection.

### Termination of Relationship with Moyle Law

Chair Villa requested a motion to end the current client relationship with Moyle Law. Ms. Gregory questioned why termination was necessary if no contract was in place. Chair Villa indicated FSU counsel advised termination was required. Dean Andrew explained there was no active board-approved contract with Moyle Law; the attorney had been working under a purchase order that expired. The recommendation from FSU Legal was to end the relationship prior to proceeding with reviewing new proposals. Ms. Gregory moved to terminate the current client relationship with Moyle Law. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marshall and passed without objection.

### Review of Legal Services Proposals

Chair Villa reported three proposals had been received: Moyle Law, Pittman Law, and Sniffen & Spellman. Dr. Bowden inquired about the budget and target costs, noting the different price structures. Mr. Rohrer explained he would make any necessary budget adjustments to accommodate the costs of the selected firm. Ms. Gregory noted Mr. Moyle had referred cases to Sniffen & Spellman in the past. Mr. Rohrer confirmed Sniffen & Spellman had been used since 2020 on ESE cases. Ms. Grace emphasized the need for information on consultant use and cost from each of the firms.

Dr. Bowden moved each firm be given 15 minutes for their presentations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Davis and passed without objection.

#### Presentations by Legal Firms

Each firm presented their proposal. Moyle law emphasized their extensive experience with FSUS, collective bargaining, and charter school statutes. Pittman Law highlighted their Florida Bar Board Certified Education attorney, Opal McKinney, as the principal contact. Sniffen and Spellman mentioned their experience with ESE and Title IX, but noted no specific attorney would be assigned to FSUS.

#### Discussion of Proposals and Presentations

Dr. Small expressed a preference for Pittman Law due to existing relationships and concerns about Sniffen & Spellman's lack of a clear point of contact. Dr. Park-Gaghan agreed with Dr. Small's concerns about Sniffen & Spellman. Ms. Perkins suggested regularly rotating legal service providers would be good practice. Dr. Bowden questioned if the relationship between FSUS and St. Joe would be affected by a change in legal representation. Dean Andrew clarified that the relationship is between FSU and St. Joe, not FSUS or Moyle Law. Ms. Grace expressed concern about the increase in Moyle Law's costs from FY 23 to FY 24. Ms. Brink explained the increase was due to additional ESE and Title IX issues.

Ms. Perkins suggested the board begin negotiations with Pittman Law and regroup if they fail. Dr. Davis agreed. Dr. Bobo moved the board select Pittman Law as the FSUS Board's legal counsel, pending negotiations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gregory and passed without objection. Dr. Bowden moved the board authorize Chair Villa to execute a contract with Pittman Law. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bobo and passed without objection. Dr. Davis moved the board regroup if negotiations with Pittman Law fail. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gregory and passed without objection.

#### Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.