

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
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**T. Willard Fair and Michael B. Chavies join
Task Force on FAMU Finance and Operational Control**



Michael B. Chavies



T. Willard Fair

TALLAHASSEE - Board of Governors Chair Carolyn King Roberts has appointed T. Willard Fair and Michael B. Chavies to the Task Force on FAMU Finance and Operational Control Issues.

The task force was created by Roberts and Chancellor Mark B. Rosenberg to prepare and implement a plan to restore financial and operational credibility to Florida A&M University. "When the work of the FAMU Task Force is complete," Roberts said when the FAMU Task Force was announced March 19, "Florida A&M University will emerge in the strongest shape in the university's history."

Fair, of Miami, is chair of the State Board of Education and is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Greater Miami. Fair has served as an adjunct professor at the Atlanta University School of Social Work, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida International University and the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young Jr. Center for Urban Leadership.

Fair graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in sociology from Johnson C. Smith University in 1961. He received a Master's of Social Work from Atlanta University School of Social Work in 1963.

Fair is a recipient of the State of Florida's Outstanding Citizen Award for his commitment to the Sunshine State. Fair is co-founder, with former Governor Jeb Bush, of the Liberty Center Charter School, the first charter school organized in the state of Florida.

Chavies, also of Miami, is an attorney with Akerman Senterfitt, Florida's largest full-service law firm. Previously, he was a judge on the Miami-Dade Circuit

Court for 13 years.

Chavies was appointed a judge in 1992 by Governor Lawton Chiles after 17 years of law practice in which he specialized in criminal defense, civil litigation and appellate law.

Chavies is a member of the 100 Black Men of South Florida, a Board member with the Jobs for Miami Program and has served on the Board of the Alzheimer's Association and several youth organizations.

He is a member of the Florida Bar and has served on the Appellate Rules Committee and the Ad Hoc Lawyer Regulation Committee and currently serves on the Judicial Independence Committee. He is a member of the National Bar Association and sits on the Board of Directors of the Coconut Grove Bank.

Chavies also teaches at the University of Miami Law School and St. Thomas School of Law.

Chavies earned a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1971 and the *juris doctor* from Rutgers University School of Law in 1974.

The FAMU Task Force will next meet at 10 a.m. June 21 at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Other members of the FAMU Task Force are:

Lynn Pappas, chair, of Jacksonville – Pappas is chair of the Audit Committee of the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida and a shareholder in the law firm of Pappas Metcalf Jenks & Miller, P.A., of Jacksonville.

Retired Justice Leander J. Shaw Jr., vice-chair, of Tallahassee – Leander Shaw was the first African-American to be serve as chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Following graduation from West Virginia State College, he joined the United States Army. He received his J.D. from Howard University School of Law in 1957, and moved to Tallahassee, where he became an assistant professor of law at Florida A&M University. Later, Shaw had his own law practice in Jacksonville and then became an assistant public defender.

Barbara Bowles of Chicago – Bowles is Vice Chairman of Profit Investment Management. She worked at First National Bank of Chicago (currently JP Morgan Chase) for over a decade as securities analyst and portfolio manager.

Ava Parker of Jacksonville – Parker, chair of the Facilities Committee of the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida, is a partner in the law offices of Lawrence and Parker, P.A., and the president of Linking Solutions Inc.

William “Bill” Jennings of Orlando – Jennings serves as Chair of the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees. He is currently retired as the executive director of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority. He served as co-chair of the campaign for the FAMU Law School Building Fund and the FAMU Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Edward Penson of Tallahassee – Penson is a former President of Salem College and a former Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Currently he is general chairman and senior scholar of Penson Associates Inc., a research and consultations firm, and coordinator and faculty leader of the Presidents’ Academy for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Joelen Merkel of Ocean Ridge – Now retired as a Certified Public Accountant, Merkel has had extensive experience in the corporate world as an executive with Chris-Craft Industries Inc. She currently serves as chair of the Audit Committee of the University of Florida Board of Trustees.

The Board of Governors is the constitutional body created by voters in 2002 to guide the State University System of Florida.

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