

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Committee Meeting  
October 18, 2019**

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The Athens State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee met on October 18, 2019 in the McCandless Hall Conference Room.

**PRESIDING: Ms. Crystal Brown**  
**Chair, Academic Affairs Committee**

The Academic Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 1:16 p.m. by Ms. Crystal Brown.

**ROLL CALL**

On roll call, the following committee members were present:

Ms. Crystal Brown  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried  
Dr. Timothy Thornton  
Professor Pamela Keller  
Dr. Cynthia Lovelace  
Ms. Trish DiLullo  
Ms. Jennifer Williams  
Ms. Julia Roth  
Dr. Joe Delap  
Ms. Tina Hooks, Recorder

Absent: Mr. Ronnie Chronister, Mr. Macke Mauldin, Mr. John Wilson, Ms. Rita Wallace

Guests attending: Dr. Jackie Smith, Ms. Belinda Krigel, Ms. Lanie Williamson, Dr. Kim LaFevor, Dr. Ronnie Merritt, Dr. Greg Holliday, Mr. Jeffrey Guenther, Dr. Stephen Spencer, Mr. David Walker, Mr. Darren Waldrep, Mr. Jamie Adams, and Dr. Debra Baird.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**New Faculty/Academic Staff Introductions**

Dr. Joe Delap welcomed and introduced the following new faculty/academic staff members:

- Mr. Jamie Adams, Assistant Professor of Studio Art
- Mr. David Walker, Director of Instructional Design Services

**Program Review**

Dr. Delap explained that the Board of Trustees expressed a desire about a year ago for the vitality of all academic programs to be reviewed in light of changing workforce needs in north Alabama. A copy of an overview of this program review was provided to all committee members. This review of programs was multifaceted and largely driven by the University's faculty members. He stated that a full report is available that includes a review of program-level student learning outcomes, enrollment trends, and retention, persistence, and graduation data. He told the committee that anyone who would like a copy of the full report could contact the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs. He asked Ms. Brown to convey to the Board of Trustees that the full report could be sent to them upon request.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **New Certificate Program – Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant**

Dr. Delap announced that a request for a new certificate program – Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant – will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. If approved, the request will be sent to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) to be presented as an information item. This certificate consists of 9 semester hours of Early Childhood Education courses. This certificate will provide auxiliary teachers an opportunity for formal development of their knowledge and credibility in working with young children. It will also add credibility to numerous facilities (i.e. HeadStart) in employment of individuals with formal certificates making the facilities more viable in receiving funds from the state for their programs.

### **Program Name Change – Liberal Studies change to Individualized Degree Program**

Dr. Delap asked Dr. Debra Baird, Professor of Religion and advisor for the Liberal Studies program to talk about the change of name for the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies. Dr. Baird explained that the change of name to Individualized Degree Program would be in keeping with current modern naming conventions in programs that are set up for students who wish to build their own major. She also stated that several changes to the program were planned in the next year or two, but the only change being requested at this time was to the name. The request to change the name of the program will be presented to the Board of Trustees today and will then be sent to ACHE for final approval. Future curriculum changes to this program will include the additions of concentrations/focus areas/certificates that will allow students to tailor a program to meet the needs of their specific business or professional goals. Adding the opportunity for students to complete a certificate program (or programs) as they earn this degree is part of a University initiative to offer mini credentials for students as they work to complete a degree.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Delap announced that Athens State University and Calhoun Community College have collaborated to offer a conference on Mentoring in Higher Education for Faculty and Academic Staff. The conference will be Friday, November 15 on the Athens State University campus. The keynote speaker is Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, Interim Vice-President of Educational Programs – Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, has worked in higher education for 50 years. Faculty and staff from several universities and community colleges have registered to attend this conference.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.