

**MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY  
June 8, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Athens State University (the "University") met at 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 8, 2016 in Chapel of Founders Hall, Athens, Alabama. On roll call, the following members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University answered present:

Dr. Robert Glenn (non-voting)  
Ms. Cathy Dickens  
Mr. Macke Mauldin  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried

Absent: Dr. Mark Heinrich

Members present constituted a quorum to conduct business.

Dr. Keith Ferguson, Ms. Sarah McAbee, Mr. Mike McCoy, Ms. Penny Pitts, Dr. Jackie Smith, and Ms. Jackie Gooch (recording) were also present. No media were present.

Tuition increase for 2016-2017 was discussed. Mr. McCoy presented budget numbers and information regarding the proposed increase.

The Cabinet recommended a 3.8% undergraduate tuition increase to the Executive Committee. This 3.8% increase would generate \$740,348 of additional revenue. This additional revenue was calculated using actual credit hour production for Fall 2015, Spring 2016 and budgeted credit hours from Summer 2016. No allowance was made for an increase/decrease in credit hour production for 2016-2017.

The 3.8% undergraduate tuition increase recommendation would assist the University in funding critical technology needs and academic operating budgets as well as increases in personnel costs associated with step raises, promotions and benefits. The breakdown for uses of additional revenue is as follows:

**\$280,000 employee salaries/benefits and COLA.**

- Step Raises and promotions - \$120,000
- 3 New University positions - \$160,000

**\$250,000 Technology**

- Recommended funding for technology items that are critical need items in addition to the technology line item in the budget.

**\$220,000 for other needs**

- Scholarship budget increased by \$40,000
- University Operating Budgets \$180,000

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

- The University projects to have 4.2 months in operational reserves at the end of the 2016-2017 budget cycle.
- The University will also be recommending at the July Board Meeting a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for employees to help offset the increase in healthcare costs imposed by PEEHIP. The COLA will be funded through University reserves.
- While the COLA that will be recommended is not the 4% that the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) employees are receiving, it will result in more take home pay for Athens State University employees over a four year span since ACCS employees have not received a COLA in at least seven years. If the recommended COLA for 2016-2017 is approved, Athens State University employees will have received a COLA three out of the last four years. The recommended COLA is expected to impact the University's budget by \$235,000.

It was also noted that three (3) other Universities in the state are increasing tuition ranging from 2% - 4.65% for 2016-2017.

Chairman Mauldin asked if consideration had been given to increase tuition in the Spring instead of the Fall. After discussion, it was decided that this option would not be reasonable for students.

On a motion by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Executive Committee of the Board of trustees approved a 3.8% undergraduate tuition increase for AY 2016-2017. This increase will be applied to all undergraduate traditional and non-traditional courses. The motion was approved by the Executive Committee of the Board by affirmative votes (3-0) of members present.

Against:       None

On a motion by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.