

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
January 17, 2025**

The Athens State University Board of Trustees (also referred herein as the Board) held a meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2025 in the Sandridge Student Center Ballroom to consider University matters.

PRESIDING: **Senator Arthur Orr**

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Senator Orr.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following Board members were present and constituted a quorum to conduct business:

Mr. Jim America
Dr. Denver Betts
Mr. Tommy Coblentz
Ms. Donna Coleman
Bill Dunnivant
Mac McCutcheon
Senator Arthur Orr
Mr. Goodrich 'Dus' Rogers
Mike Underwood

Also present were Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, President of Athens State University, Ms. Jackie Gooch, Secretary to the Board, and Mr. Shane Black, University Legal Counsel. Governor Kay Ivey and Chancellor Jimmy Baker were absent. Approximately 70 faculty/staff attended in-person and electronically.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the agenda by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. America, the Board approved the minutes from the October 18, 2024 Board meeting by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – Abstain

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one officially registered for public comment.

OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTION

The Board received the Executive Committee minutes from November 18, 2024, that were previously distributed electronically.

NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Review and Affirmation of University Mission Statement (Attachment A)

On a motion made by Mr. Underwood and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board reaffirmed the Athens State University Mission Statement. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #1 (Attachment B)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #1 as presented. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Acceptance of Information Security Program Report (Attachment C)

On a motion made by Mr. America and seconded by Dr. Betts, the Board accepted the Information Security Program Report as presented. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Capital Improvement: Carter Hall (Attachment D)

On a motion made by Mr. Dunnivant and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board authorized the University President to solicit bids for the renovation of Carter Hall. Bids should be opened before the May 2025 Board meeting. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

New Academic Program: GR CERT – Management of Cybersecurity Operations College of Business (Attachment E)

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Dr. Betts, the Board approved the GR Certificate in Management of Cybersecurity Operations for the College of Business. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Academic Program Revisions – College of Business (Attachment F)

On a motion by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Coblentz, the Board approved academic program revisions for the College of Business. Title change from Strategic Leadership and Business Analytics to Strategic Leadership and approved the addition of the following concentrations for Strategic Leadership 1) Business Analytics, 2) Healthcare Management, 3) Human Resource Management, 4) Management of Cybersecurity Operations, and 5) Tailored Leadership. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Reaffirmation of Board of Trustees Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities (Attachment G)

On a motion by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board reaffirmed and signed the revised Board of Trustees Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities (formerly Board of Trustee Roles and Responsibilities) as presented. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES

Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

OTHER BUSINESS (No Action Required)

Learning Partnerships

Dr. Keith Ferguson provided an update on Learning Partnerships.

Foundation/Endowment Update

Dr. Keith Ferguson provided an update on Foundation and Endowments.

Enrollment/Marketing Update

Mr. Chris Latham provided an enrollment/marketing update.

Quarterly Financial Update

The Board received the quarterly financial update.

Alabama Commission on Education (ACHE) Update

The Board received a handout on actions taken by the Commission.

Reminder: Statement of Economic Interest must be filed with the Alabama Ethics Commission by April 30, 2025.

President's Report/Update

Dr. Wehlburg also provided a written report including updates in the following areas:

1. Enrollment Management
2. Alumni and Donor Relations
3. Academic Affairs
4. Visibility/Community
5. Strategic Plan Framework
 - a. Student Success
 - b. Innovative Teaching/Learning Quality
 - c. Community Support and Engagement
 - d. Foundational Support

Board Committee Updates and Report Acceptance

Finance and Facilities Committee – Mr. Rogers

Mr. Rogers provided the Finance and Facilities Committee update.

Enrollment and Student Affairs Committee – Mr. Bill Dunnivant

Mr. Bill Dunnivant provided the Enrollment and Student Affairs Committee update.

Academic Affairs Committee – Dr. Betts

Dr. Betts provided the Academic Affairs Committee update.

External Affairs Committee – Mr. America

Mr. America provided the External Affairs Committee update.

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. Underwood, the Board accepted the committee reports as presented.

CLOSING COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Orr adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:42 pm.