

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2020**

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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, 2020 in the Founders Hall Chapel to consider University matters.

**PRESIDING: MR. RONNIE CHRONISTER**

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m. by Mr. Ronnie Chronister.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one officially registered for public comment. However, Chairman Chronister, without objection from any board members, nonetheless extended an opportunity to all present to offer public comments to the Board. No public comments were offered.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Ms. Crystal Brown  
Mr. Ronnie Chronister  
Ms. Cathy Dickens  
Mr. Bill Dunnavant  
Mr. Macke Mauldin  
Senator Arthur Orr  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried  
Ms. Missy Ming-Smith

Also present were Dr. Philip Way, President of Athens State University and Mr. Shane Black, University Legal Counsel, and Ms. Jackie Gooch, Secretary to the Board. Governor Kay Ivey, Mr. Jim America, and Chancellor Jimmy Baker were absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion made by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. Mauldin, the Board approved the agenda by affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board approved the minutes of the October 18, 2019 by affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTION**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **2017-2018 Strategic Plan Report Card (Attachment A)**

On a motion made by Mr. Mauldin and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board accepted the 2017-2018 Strategic Plan Report Card as presented. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **2016-2020 Strategic Plan (Attachment B)**

On a motion made by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. Mauldin, the Board affirmed and accepted the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan as presented understanding that Dr. Way is currently gathering data through Administrative Council and Strategic Planning Committee meetings to develop the next strategic plan for the institution. At this time, the institution will continue to follow this plan as presented. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes of (8-0) of members present.

### **ACHE Information Item: College of Business Addition of New Department (Attachment C)**

On a motion made by Mr. Mauldin and seconded by Senator Orr, the Board approved the “information only” item for the addition of a new department in the College of Business to be sent to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). This motion was approved by the affirmative votes of (8-0) of members present.

### **Board of Visitors Nomination/Appointment (Attachment D)**

On a motion made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board appointed the following individuals to serve on the College of Business Board of Visitors for a three-year term; Steve Barlow, Jessica Jones and Phillip Lee. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **AY 2019-2020 Budget Amendment #1 (Attachment E)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Mr. Mauldin, the Board approved the AY 2019-2020 Budget Amendment #1. This amendment includes the addition of funds to the University’s O&M appropriation. As part of the higher education equalization funds approved by the legislature, the University received \$188,880 as additional funding for AY 2019-2020. These funds will be used to establish two new support positions in the areas of University Advancement and Information Technology. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **Adoption of Resolution No. 1-01-17-2020 (Attachment F)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Brown, the Board approved the adoption of Resolution No. 1-01-17-2020 which authorizes the President of the University to sell, on behalf of the University, the Beaty Mason house and property. Mr. Chronister provided background leading up to this discussion. He explained that the University is very sensitive to the feelings of the community and solicited input through various venues/forums for individuals to provide feedback, met with city officials, historical commission and many community residents. Mr. McCoy provided background on the various phases of restoration that has occurred over the last 8-9 years. McCoy explained that the University has invested \$1 million on this property with a projection of an additional \$1 - \$1.2 million to complete the restoration. Mr. Chronister attested that the University had performed due diligence in exploring different options.

Following discussion, Mr. Dunnivant made a motion to table this item to allow for further investigation before selling. Mr. Chronister asked if any board member would second the motion, and upon no member seconding the motion, Mr. Chronister stated that the motion to table failed. Mr. Chronister called for the vote on the main

motion. The original motion to adopt Resolution No. 1-01-17-2020 was approved by the affirmative votes (6-2) of members present. Mr. Dunnavant and Dr. Sims-deGraffenried voted against.

### **Adoption of Resolution No. 2-01-17-2020 (Attachment G)**

On a motion made by Ms. Dickens and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the adoption of Resolution No. 2-01-17-2020. The Athens State University Board of Trustees identifies a multi-purpose events, training and innovation center as a main priority and further authorizes the President to continue working with City and County officials, the Chamber of Commerce and state and local constituencies in developing plans, cost estimates, and funding sources for the project. The Board also authorizes the President to work with the aforementioned groups and architects in the completion of Phase II of the Market and Feasibility study. This study would be a minimal cost to the University. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

Senator Orr reiterated that the University was not in the business of providing space for community use only. He stated that this must be a partnership and the University must have priority for usage of space to fulfill our mission and to serve students.

Mr. Chronister reaffirmed that when Dr. Way was hired, the Board charged him with thinking outside the box and wanted him to engage in the community and he is doing exactly what he has been asked to do.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Athens State University Family Relationship Disclosure**

Provided to the Board of Trustees.

### **Reaffirmation and Accreditation Update**

The Board received a SACSCOC Accreditation update.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

No additional report.

## **REPORT AND CLOSING COMMENTS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Committee Updates and Report Acceptance

**Enrollment and Student Services – chaired by Mr. Mauldin**

**Academic Affairs – chaired by Ms. Brown**

**Finance and Facilities – chaired by Mr. Chronister**

**Development – chaired by Dr. Ferguson (in the absence of Ms. Dickens)**

On a motion made by Mr. Mauldin and seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board accepted the Enrollment/Student Services Board Committee report, the Academic Affairs Committee report, the Development Committee report, and the Finance and Facilities Committee reports as presented. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Dickens, Mr. Chronister adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:27 pm.