

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2023**

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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 20, 2023 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one officially registered for public comment.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mr. Jim America  
Ms. Cathy Dickens  
Mr. Bill Dunnavant (electronically)  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon (electronically)  
Senator Arthur Orr  
Mr. Goodrich 'Dus' Rogers  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried (electronically)  
Mrs. Missy Ming Smith  
Mr. Mike Underwood

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board approved the agenda by affirmative votes (9-0) of members answering present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the agenda by affirmative votes (9-0) of members answering present.

## **OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTION**

Executive Committee minutes were provided (previously provided electronically) for November 14, 2022 and January 9, 2023.

On a motion made by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board accepted the FY 2022 Audit from Mauldin/Jenkin by affirmative votes (9-0) of members answering present. This audit included an unmodified opinion.

## **NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Review and Affirmation of University Mission Statement**

#### **(Attachment A)**

On a motion made by Mr. America and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board affirmed the University's Mission Statement with no changes. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnavant – YES  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon - YES  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood - YES

### **FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment #1**

#### **(Attachment B)**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board approved the FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment that included a reduction in personnel expenses of \$926,678 and a reduction in contractual obligations for \$25,000. Reserves were not used for this reduction. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnavant – YES  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon - YES  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood - YES



**Revision of Board By-Laws  
(Attachment C)**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board approved the revised Board of Trustees By-Laws. This revision combined the previous By-Laws with the Rules of Procedure into one document. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnavant – YES  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon – (could not hear response)  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood - YES

**New UG Certificate Program – Adobe Photoshop or Visual Design and Photography  
(Attachment D)**

**New UG Certificate Program - Adobe InDesign for Print and Digital Media  
(Attachment E)**

**New UG Certificate Program – Adobe Illustrator for Graphic Design and Digital  
Illustration (Attachment F)**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the UG Certificate in Adobe Photoshop or Visual Design and Photography AND the UG Certificate in Adobe InDesign for Print and Digital Media AND the UG Certificate in Adobe Illustrator for Graphic Design and Digital Illustration for the College of Arts and Sciences. The motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnavant – could not hear response  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon – YES  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood - YES

## **New Academic Program – Bachelor of Science – Digital Marketing and Analytics (Attachment G)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board approved the Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing and Analytics for the College of Business. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnivant – YES  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon – YES  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood - YES

## **Appointment of Interim President and Approval of Interim President Expectations (Attachment H)**

On a motion made by Ms. Dickens and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Catherine Wehlburg as Interim President and approved the Interim President Expectations. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnivant – YES  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon – YES  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood – YES

Senator Orr asked for everyone’s support of Dr. Wehlburg during this interim time as she works to move the University forward.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **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.

### **Archer Update**

Dr. Kim LaFevor and Ms. Sarah McAbee provided a brief update on the Archer partnership.

### **Learning Partnerships**

Dr. Kim LaFevor provided a brief update on the University's 17 Learning Partnerships.

## **Acting President's Report/Update**

Dr. Wehlburg provided the following:

1. Thanks to Mr. America, Mr. Dunnivant, and Mr. Underwood for participating in the Fall Commencement exercises.
2. Official enrollment numbers will be available on January 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. Met with Dr. Marcus Ambe from the African Institute for Supply Chain Research. Dr. Ambe presented and participated in an open forum at the University on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
4. World premiere of "The Rocket Men" (by Crystal Skillman) will be April 20-23, 2023 at the Alabama Center for the Arts.
5. Dr. Katie Kandalec-Holm has been named Editor of the CTE Research Journal.
6. Co-hosting the Achieve Conference with Calhoun Community College in Carter Hall on March 1-2, 2023.
7. Bicentennial Gala scheduled for February 25, 2023.

## **Board Committee Updates and Report Acceptance**

### **Finance and Facilities Committee – Senator Orr**

Senator Orr provided the Finance and Facilities update.

### **Enrollment and Student Affairs Committee – Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith provided the Enrollment and Student Affairs update.

### **Academic Affairs Committee – Mr. America**

Mr. America provided the Academic Affairs update.

### **Development Committee – Ms. Dickens**

Ms. Dickens provided the Development Committee update.

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Underwood, the Board accepted the Committee reports. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES  
Cathy Dickens - YES  
Bill Dunnivant – YES  
Speaker Mac McCutcheon – couldn't hear answer  
Senator Arthur Orr – YES  
Dus Rogers – YES  
Dr. Sims-deGraffenried – YES  
Missy Ming Smith – YES  
Mike Underwood - YES

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Orr adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:33 pm.