

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING  
MAY 21, 2021**

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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, May 21, 2021 in the Sandridge Student Center Ballroom to consider University matters.

**PRESIDING: MR. MACKE MAULDIN**

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

**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 (electronically)  
Ms. Cathy Dickens  
Mr. Bill Dunnavant  
Mr. Macke Mauldin  
Senator Arthur Orr  
Mr. Goodrich 'Dus' Rogers  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried (electronically)  
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 and Chancellor Jimmy Baker and Mr. Ronnie Chronister were absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board approved the agenda by affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the minutes of the January 15, 2021 meeting by affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTION**

None.

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

### **2019-2020 Financial Audit Acceptance**

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

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board accepted the 2019-2020 Financial Audit as presented by Chris Anderson of CDPA (accounting firm). Mr. Anderson confirmed the outstanding job done by the University accounting team and reported that the University received an unqualified, unmodified opinion with no audit adjustments required. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **2018-2019 Strategic Plan Report Card Acceptance**

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

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board accepted the 2018-2019 Strategic Plan Report Card as presented. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes of (8-0) of members present.

### **Board of Visitors Nomination/Appointment**

#### **(Attachment C)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board authorized the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees to appoint a board member to serve on the nominating committee. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **Board of Visitors Nomination/Appointment**

#### **(Attachment D)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board appointed the following individuals to serve on the Board of Visitors for a 3-year term: Donna Estill (College of Education), Alison Scalf (College of Arts and Sciences) and Dr. Thuy Lam Lynch (College of Arts and Sciences). This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **New Academic Program: Certificate in Pre Health (COAS)**

#### **(Attachment E)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Certificate in Pre Health for the College of Arts and Sciences. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **New Academic Program: Certificate in Forensic Accounting (COB)**

#### **(Attachment F)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Certificate in Forensic Accounting for the College of Business. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

### **New Academic Program: Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Management (COB)**

#### **(Attachment G)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Management for the College of Business. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**New Academic Program: Certificate (Graduate) in Strategic Business Analytics (COB)  
(Attachment H)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Graduate Certificate in Strategic Business Analytics for the College of Business. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**New Academic Program: Certificate (Graduate) in Strategic Leadership (COB)  
(Attachment I)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Graduate Certificate in Strategic Leadership for the College of Business. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**New Academic Program: Master of Fine Arts (MFA)  
(Attachment J)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board approved the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) for the College of Arts and Sciences. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**Capital Improvement: Classroom Upgrades  
(Attachment K)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Smith, the Board approved the expending of funds for classroom upgrades. Estimated Budget: \$880,000. Source of Funds: Special state appropriations. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**Capital Improvement: Alabama Center for the Arts Residence Halls  
(Attachment L)**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the expending of funds for residence halls in Decatur for the Alabama Center for the Arts. Estimated Budget: \$7,500,000 (Total budget \$15,000,000 shared with Calhoun Community College). Source of Funds: Public School and College Authority (PSCA) funds. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

**2021-2022 Tuition/Fee Schedule  
(Attachment M)**

On a motion made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board approved the 2021-2022 Tuition/Fee Schedule. This schedule includes a restructure of tuition/fees to include 1) traditional and non-traditional tuition will be assessed the same rate, 2) increase graduate tuition rate from \$289 to \$325, 3) A \$1 per credit hour Student Activities Fee, 4) increase of Tech Fee from \$50 to \$75 and 5) increase in Teaching Internship Fee that pays for classroom observers to \$200. This restructure will allow the University to become more competitive with other regional institutions. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Provided to the Board of Trustees.

### **Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation Survey**

Available to Board members from May 24 until June 8, 2021.

### **Quarterly Financial Update**

The Board received the quarterly financial update.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Way thanked Dr. Jackie Smith for her work on the recent SACSCOC Reaffirmation Process. The University received no recommendations.

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

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

Enrollment and Student Services – chaired by Mr. Mauldin

Academic Affairs – report given by Dr. Jackie Smith

Finance and Facilities – chaired by Ms. M. Smith

Development – chaired by Mr. Dunnivant

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board accepted the Board Committee reports. This motion was approved by the affirmative votes (8-0) of members present.

Dr. Sims-deGraffenried thanked Senator Orr for any role he may have played in securing funding for the University.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Ms. Dickens, Mr. Mauldin adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:24 pm.