ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
May 15, 2026

The Athens State University Board of Trustees (also referred herein as the Board) held a meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2026, in the Sandridge Student Center Ballroom to consider University matters.

PRESIDING: **Mr. Jim America**

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

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 Dunnavant
Mac McCutcheon
Senator Arthur Orr (electronically)
Mr. Goodrich 'Dus' Rogers
Mike Underwood (electronically)

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 was absent. Approximately 39 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 Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the minutes from the January 16, 2026, Board meeting by the following roll-call vote:

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

Acceptance of 2024-2025 Audit from Mauldin & Jenkins
Mr. Chris Anderson of Mauldin & Jenkins reported on the 2024-2025 Audit. The result of the audit was a clean, unmodified opinion, with cash and net position up.

NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

New Academic Program – Microcredential
AI Enhanced Experiential Learning
College of Arts and Sciences
(Attachment A)

On a motion made by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Dr. Betts, the Board approved the undergraduate microcredential for AI Enhanced Experiential Learning for the College of Arts and Sciences. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

New Academic Program – GR
Master of Science in Nursing/Nursing Education
(Attachment B)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Coleman, the Board approved the Master of Science in Nursing/Nursing Education for the College of Arts and Sciences. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Organizational Structure Change – Vice President for Enrollment Management
(Attachment C)

On a motion made by Dr. Betts and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the addition of the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management to the University organizational structure. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnavant – ABSTAIN
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Charter Revision- Board of Visitors
(Attachment D)

On recommendation from Ms. Coleman, this item was tabled for additional discussion, and revisions will be considered at the July 2026 meeting.

Board of Visitor Nomination
(Attachment E)

On a motion made by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Dunnavant, the Board approved the appointment of John W. Mayes to the College of Business Board of Visitors. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

Mike Underwood - YES

Capital Improvement – Alabama Center for the Arts Art and Music Studio (Attachment F)

On a motion by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the expenditure of funds for the renovation of the Alabama Center for the Arts Art and Music Studio, utilizing supplemental state appropriations awarded by Act No. 2026-299. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

2026-2027 Tuition/Fee Schedule (Attachment G)

On a motion by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board of Trustees established and approved the 2026-2027 Tuition/Fee Schedule, which included a 2.5% tuition increase and a $5 increase to the Technology Fee. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblentz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES
Bill Dunnavant – NO
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

Ms. Donna Coleman provided an update on Foundation and Endowments.

Quarterly Financial Update

Mr. Jonathan Craft provided the quarterly financial update.

Alabama Commission on Education (ACHE) Update

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

Family Relationship Disclosure

The Board received a copy of the Family Relationship Disclosure form(s) received since the January 2026 Board meeting.

Board of Trustees Evaluation

The Board was notified of the Board of Trustees Evaluation process, which will be available June 1-12, 2026.

President's Report/Update

Dr. Wehlburg also provided a written report including, but not limited to, the following updates:

Enrollment Management

- Summer Enrollment

Staff Senate Updates

Strategic Planning

- 2nd annual Bear Bash
- New Course Evaluation System
- Catalog of Faculty/Staff Experts for Learning Partners

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 Dunnavant

Mr. Bill Dunnavant 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.

CLOSING COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. America adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:24 pm.