ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
July 18, 2025

The Athens State University Board of Trustees (also referred herein as the Board) held a meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, July 18, 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 2:31 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 (electronically)
Mr. Tommy Coblentz
Ms. Donna Coleman
Bill Dunnavant
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 127 faculty/staff attended in-person and electronically.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to the motion for the approval of the agenda. Chairman Orr announced that there would be no vote taken on agenda Item 12 under New Business, Contract for Integrated Facilities Management.

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, 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. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. Underwood, the Board approved the minutes from the May 16, 2025, 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

The following individuals provided public comment to the Board on the stated agenda item.
Mr. Corey Wilson – Contract for Integrated Facilities Management
Dr. Gil Carter – Carter Hall Renovation
Dr. Troy Adair – Contract for Integrated Facilities Management
Mr. Brad Smith – Contract for Integrated Facilities Management
Mr. Chad Adams – Contract for Integrated Facilities Management
Mr. Donald Evans – Contract for Integrated Facilities Management
Mr. Will Little – Contract for Integrated Facilities Management

OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTION

None.

NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Review and Affirmation of Statement on Inclusion and Civility (Attachment A)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board reaffirmed the Statement on Inclusion and Civility. 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 Board Meeting Dates
(Attachment B)

On a motion made by Mr. America and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the Board meeting dates for 2026 as January 16, 2026, May 15, 2026, July 17, 2026, and October 16, 2026. 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

2025-2026 Board Committee Structure and Charter Review
(Attachment C)

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Ms. Coleman, the Board approved the 2025-2026 Board Committee Structure and Charter. 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

2025-2026 Executive Committee Membership
(Attachment D)

On a motion made by Mr. America and seconded by Mr. Coblentz, the Board approved the 2025-2026 Executive Committee appointment as Senator Orr, Mr. America, Mr. Dunnavant, Mr. McCutcheon, and Mr. Rogers. 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

2024 Board Self-Evaluation Results
(Attachment E)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Coleman, the Board accepted the 2024 Board Self-Evaluation results 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 Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

New Academic Program – Micro credential – Auditing
College of Business
(Attachment F)

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. Coblentz, the Board approved the micro credential in Auditing 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 Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Academic Program Title Change – Master of Fine Arts in Integrative Art
(Attachment G)

On a motion made by Mr. Underwood and seconded by Mr. America, the Board approved Academic Program Title Change from Master of Fine Arts in Integrative Design to Master of Fine Arts in Integrative Art. 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

Resolution No. 1-07-18-2025
Board By Laws and Contract Management Policy Amendment
(Attachment H)

On a motion made by Mr. Dunnavant and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved Resolution No. 1-07-18-2025 to amend the Board of Trustees Bylaws and Contract Management Policy 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 Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Contract for Enrollment Marketing Services
(Attachment I)

On a motion by Mr. Dunnavant and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board approved the contract for Enrollment Marketing Services with Echo Delta. 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: Carter Hall Renovation
(Attachment J)

On a motion by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board approved the *Additions and Renovations to Carter Hall* project. This approval will authorize: (a) expending funds from State supplemental appropriations, Athens State University Plant Funds, and bond financing in support of the project in an amount not to exceed $30 million; and (b) the President to award, enter into, and carry out contracts in support of the project. 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

Carter Hall Financing Agreement
(Attachment K)

On a motion by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. America, the Board authorized the President to pursue financing through a general obligation bond with Pinnacle Financial Partners at a rate not to exceed 4.65% per annum for the *Additions and Renovations to Carter Hall* project. Final resolutions and financing documents will be presented to the full-board for approval at the October 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 Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon - YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Mike Underwood - YES

Contract for Integrated Facilities Management
(Attachment L)

The Board of Trustees did not vote on this item. Dr. Wehlburg provided additional information. Chairman Orr requested that Board members send follow-up questions to Dr. Wehlburg.

FY 2025-2026 Budget
(Attachment M)

On a motion by Mr. America and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board approved the FY 2025-2026 Budget 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 Dunnavant – 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. Ms. Coleman challenged Board members to submit information (name and phone number) to the Learning Partnership office for any possible leads for future partners.

Foundation/Endowment Update

Ms. Coleman provided an update on Foundation and Endowments. Total assets as of June 30, 2025, is $9,915,530.33

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.

Marketing Presentation

Mr. Latham provided a handout and reviewed recent marketing campaigns.

Family Relationship Disclosure

Family Relationship Disclosure statements were provided.

Fact Book

The most recent Fact Book was provided.

President's Report/Update

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

Enrollment Management

- Summer enrollment – headcount down slightly (1.9%) and credit hour production was down 0.1%.
- Fall enrollment – seeing an increase in headcount in undergraduate students and in NEW undergraduate students.

Facilities Update

- Nearing occupancy for The Studio at the ACA.
- Ribbon cutting for Nazaretian will be on July 25^{th} at 4:00 pm
- Announced name of new spirit store "Pillar and Paw".

Board Committee Updates and Report Acceptance

Finance and Facilities Committee – Mr. Rogers

Mr. Rogers yielded his time.

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 yielded his time.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Senator Orr welcomed Ms. Coleman back.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Dunnavant and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, Senator Orr adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 4:20 pm.