

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
October 17, 2025**

The Athens State University Board of Trustees (also referred herein as the Board) held a meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 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 2:30 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 Bett
Mr. Tommy Coblentz
Ms. Donna Coleman
Bill Dunnivant
Senator Arthur Orr
Mr. Goodrich 'Dus' Rogers

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, President of Athens State University, and Ms. Jackie Gooch, Secretary to the Board, were also present. Governor Kay Ivey, Chancellor Jimmy Baker, Mr. Mac McCutcheon, and Mr. Mike Underwood were absent. Approximately 65 faculty/staff attended in person and electronically.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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 Dunnivant – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. America and seconded by Mr. Coblentz, the Board approved the minutes from the July 18, 2025, Board meeting by the following roll-call vote:

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

Bill Dunnavant – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Board of Visitor Nominations (Attachment A)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board appointed the following individuals to serve on the Board of Visitors: College of Arts and Sciences – Carl Davis, Ellen Didier; College of Business – Henry Carter, James Comer, Angela Greenfield; College of Education – Dr. Yvette Evans, Mr. Stephen Baugh. 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
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

Organizational Structure Change (Attachment B)

On a motion made by Dr. Betts and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board approved the Organizational Structure Change to move the Human Resources Office from a direct report to the Vice President of Financial Affairs to a direct report to the President. 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
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

**Naming of Campus Houses
(Attachment C)**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. America, the Board approved the Naming of Campus Houses. Houses are to be named according to the offices housed therein. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblenz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES

Bill Dunnavant – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

**Agreement between Athens State University and the Athens State University Foundation
(Attachment D)**

On a motion made by Mr. Coblenz and seconded by Ms. Coleman, the Board approved the Agreement between Athens State University and the Athens State University Foundation and authorized the President of the University to execute the agreement as presented. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblenz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES

Bill Dunnavant – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

Resolution No. 1-10-17-2025

**Resolution Transferring Funds for Beaty Mason Renovation to the Athens State University Foundation
(Attachment E)**

On a motion made by Mr. Coblenz and seconded by Mr. America, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1-10-17-2025 for the transfer of funds (\$213,500) for the Beaty Mason renovation to the Athens State University Foundation. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblenz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES

Bill Dunnavant – NO
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

**New Academic Program – Microcredential – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - College of Education
(Attachment F)**

On a motion made by Dr. Betts and seconded by Ms. Coleman, the Board approved the microcredential in ESOL for the College of Education. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Denver Betts – YES
Tommy Coblenz - YES
Donna Coleman – YES

Bill Dunnavant – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

Board of Trustees Representative to the Foundation Board (Attachment G)

On a motion made by Ms. Coleman and seconded by Dr. Betts, the Board elected Mr. Tommy Coblentz as the Board of Trustees representative to serve as an *ex officio* member of the University's Foundation Board for 2025-2026. 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
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

Board of Trustees Nominating Committee Board Representative (Attachment H)

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board elected Mr. Jim America as the Board of Trustees representative to serve on the Board Nominating Committee. 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
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES

OTHER BUSINESS (No Action Required)

Quarterly Financial Update

The Board received the quarterly financial update.

Learning Partnerships

Ms. Brandy Conway provided an update on Learning Partnerships. Ms. Conway solicited assistance in securing an introduction to the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce.

Foundation/Endowment Update

Ms. Coleman provided an update on Foundation and Endowments. Total assets as of Fall 2025 is \$9,751,004.15.

Alabama Department of Public Examiners

Dr. Wehlburg reviewed the findings and the corrective actions that will be taken.

Alabama Commission on Education (ACHE) Update

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

Board of Trustees Retreat – SAVE THE DATE

February 6-7, 2025, at Renaissance Shoals

President's Report/Update

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

Academics

- The University is proud to announce that it has received official approval for accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).
- New program approvals by ACHE and SACSCOC.

Enrollment Management

- Fall enrollment – overall slight increase in undergraduate students and credit hours, with a slight decrease in graduate student enrollment and headcount.
- Spring enrollment – opened on October 15th. Currently have had 1315 inquiries and 810 applications from new students.

Facilities Update

- Nearing occupancy for Brown Hall.
- Renovations have started for Carter Hall.

Progress continues on the University's Strategic Plan. Updates were provided in the key focus areas of Student Success, Community Engagement, and Innovative Teaching and Learning.

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 Dunnivant

Mr. Bill Dunnivant 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

Senator Orr announced the plans to have the January 2026 Board meeting at the Alabama Center for the Arts.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Orr adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:23 pm.