

**SUMMARY OF MAY 15, 2020 MEETING OF THE  
ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Per the directive of Chairman Ronnie Chronister, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Athens State University was held at 2:30PM on May 15, 2020, at Founders Hall Chapel located at 300 North Beaty Street, Athens, AL, and notice of the meeting was provided as required by law. The meeting was conducted pursuant to Section 3 of Governor Kay Ivey's March 18, 2020 Proclamation concerning the operation of the Open Meetings Law during the state of emergency related to COVID-19. As such, all deliberations conducted, and actions taken, during the meeting were limited to matters within the board's statutory authority that were (a) necessary to respond to COVID-19, or (b) necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the board.

One member of the board (Chairman Ronnie Chronister) physically attended the meeting at Founders Hall Chapel, and other members of the board participated in this meeting by means of electronic communications (through a telephone/Zoom conference call). Per the Governor's Order, the meeting was not open to physical presence by members of the general public.

This summary of the meeting is provided no less than twelve (12) hours after the meeting, on the Athens State University website at <https://www.athens.edu/board-of-trustees/meetings/minutes/>. The summary recounts the deliberations conducted and the actions taken by the board with reasonable specificity to allow the public to understand what happened.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Ronnie Chronister, who was physically present at the Founders Hall Chapel, called the meeting to Order at 2:31 PM.

The following board members participated in the meeting remotely via telephone/Zoom conference call: Jim America, Crystal Brown, Cathy Dickens, Bill Dunnivant, Macke Mauldin, Senator Arthur Orr, Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and Missy Ming Smith. Governor Kay Ivey and Mr. Jimmy Baker were absent.

Also participating remotely via telephone/Zoom were Dr. Kim LaFavor, Dean for the College of Business and Dr. Stephen Spencer, Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. They participated at the request of Chairman Chronister, having been identified as necessary to the expected discussion and business of the meeting.

The following persons were physically present with Chairman Chronister, at his request, their participation having been identified as necessary to the expected discussion and business of the meeting: Philip Way, President; Jackie Gooch, Special Assistant to the President for Board Relations; Dr. Joe Delap, Provost; Mr. Mike McCoy, Vice President for Financial Affairs; and Mr. Shane Black, University Legal Counsel.

**II. Approval of Agenda and Manner for Conducting Meeting**

Chairman Chronister asked for motion to: (a) approve the May 15, 2020 agenda; (b) find that all items on the agenda (and all deliberations related thereto) are matters within the Athens State University Board of Trustee's statutory authority that are (i) necessary to respond to COVID-19, or

(ii) necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the board; (c) approve the conduct of the meeting pursuant to the Section 3 of Governor Kay Ivey's March 18, 2020 Proclamation concerning the operation of the Open Meetings Law during the state of emergency related to COVID-19; and (d) to suspend, for this meeting, any by-law, policy or other rule of the board that would conflict with the conduct of the meeting as stated in this motion and the May 15, 2020 agenda. On a motion by Mr. Mauldin and seconded by Mr. America, the motion was introduced, seconded, and then approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

### **III. Public Comment - Suspended**

### **IV. Roll Call**

The Secretary to the Board called roll. Individuals answering present were:

Jim America  
Crystal Brown  
Ronnie Chronister  
Cathy Dickens  
Bill Dunnavant  
Macke Mauldin  
Senator Arthur Orr  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried  
Missy Ming Smith

Members present (electronically and physically) constituted a quorum to conduct business.

### **V. Approval of Minutes -January 17, 2020 (Attachment A)**

On a motion by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Brown, the Board approved the January 17, 2020 minutes as presented by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y

Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

## **VI. Old Business, Pending Motions and Resolutions**

Mr. Chronister announced notification of the 2019 Audit Report. No action is required by the Board. All Board members received an electronic copy with the agenda packet.

## **VII. New Business, Pending Motions and Resolutions**

### **2020-2021 Tuition/Fee Schedule (Attachment B)**

Dr. Way asked Mr. McCoy to address this item of business. Mr. McCoy explained that the 2020-2021 Tuition/Fee Schedule was unchanged from the past year however, the AY 2020-2021 does include a credential fee to be capped at \$100 per course. This fee will be assessed as needed. The fee will be assessed initially in the Fall 2020 for the Executive Leadership Certificate program offered by the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) for students who elect to follow the Management track in the M.S. in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management program.

Dr. Delap further explained that after completing 3 courses students would receive a micro-credential and a membership in NSLS for this fee.

Ms. Dickens asked how many courses this fee would impact. Dr. Delap responded it would affect 3 graduate courses for the Fall semester. Mr. McCoy stated it could impact more in the future.

Chairman Chronister confirmed that the tuition rate would remain unchanged for the upcoming year. Mr. McCoy responded yes. Chairman Chronister requested Mr. McCoy to walk through the rationale for no tuition increase. Mr. McCoy explained that research is conducted every year to see how other Universities are changing tuition. Based on this year, some Universities are freezing tuition and some are raising tuition. Dr. Way further commented that the recession is hurting our students this year and the University wanted to help our students by keeping tuition flat for this year even though it would mean foregoing \$120,000 in revenue. The University has already allocated \$400,000 of COVID funds to students in need. In addition, \$33,000 has been expended from the Student's Emergency Assistance Fund. The University has also been encouraging our students to talk to the Financial Aid Office if their circumstances have changed to see if more aid is available. Dr. Way reported that the Summer enrollment is up 4.7% right now but Fall is behind about 6%.

On a motion by Mr. Mauldin and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board approved the 2020-2021 Tuition/Fee Schedule as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University Board of Trustees approve the attached tuition/fee schedule for AY 2020-2021.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**New Academic Program CERT: Biblical Studies (Attachment C)**  
**College of Arts and Science**

Chairman Chronister asked Dr. Delap to provide background on this new program. Dr. Delap explained that this certificate is designed for individuals who are interested in pursuing biblical studies in an academic setting. This program is well suited for lay leaders in the church, ministers, or individuals simply interested in broadening and deepening their understanding of the Bible.

Dr. Spencer also stated that there was a demand in the region for pastors and lay staff to pursue biblical studies at the higher education level. This is also a nice complement to the University's undergraduate and graduate religion programs.

On a motion by Ms. Brown and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Certificate in Biblical Studies as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University Board of Trustees approve the Certificate in Biblical Studies for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**New Academic Program CERT: Pastoral Leadership (Attachment D)**  
**College of Arts and Science**

Chairman Chronister asked Dr. Delap to provide background on this new program. Dr. Delap explained that this certificate is designed for individuals who are interested in pursuing a better understanding of leadership in faith communities and other non-profit organizations. This program is well suited for lay leaders in the church, ministers, or individuals simply interested in broadening and deepening their understanding of leadership.

On a motion by Mr. Mauldin and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Certificate in Pastoral Leadership as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University Board of Trustees approve the Certificate in Pastoral Leadership for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**New Academic Program CERT: Global Supply Chain Management (Attachment E)  
College of Business**

Dr. Delap stated that the word *logistics* was a typographical error and should be removed from the title on the ACHE Summary Form. This program would be an ideal fit for students wanting to pursue a shorter economic program of study in supply chain for both professional and academic reasons. This credential could be a gateway for students to enter the Master's in the Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management program.

On a motion by Mr. America and seconded by Ms. Dickens, the Board approved the Certificate in Global Supply Chain Management as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University Board of Trustees approve the Certificate in Global Supply Chain Management for the College of Business.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y

Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**New Academic Program MS Track: Artificial Intelligence (Attachment F)**  
**College of Business**

Dr. Delap explained this track is part of the Master’s program and would focus on the management of data science implementation efforts instead of the computing side of artificial intelligence. There is a high demand in our area for this program. Chairman Chronister agreed that there was a high demand.

On a motion by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. Mauldin, the Board approved the MS Track: Artificial Intelligence as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University Board of Trustees approve the track in Artificial Intelligence for the MS in GLSCM for the College of Business.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**New Academic Program: Master of Science (Attachment G)**  
**Strategic Leadership and Business Analytics**  
**College of Business**

This program focuses on providing the business and leadership education needed to succeed in a complex and global business environment by focusing on curriculum grounded in global strategic leadership, strategic human resource management, strategy development and implementation/operations management complex negotiations and managing risks and complex change, but informed by business analytics.

On a motion by Ms. Dickens and seconded by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried, the Board approved the Master of Science-Strategic Leadership and Business Analytics as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University

Board of Trustees approve the Master of Science in Strategic Leadership and Business Analytics for the College of Business.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**New Academic Program: Master of Science (Attachment H)  
Strategic Healthcare Management and Administration  
College of Business**

Dr. Delap reported that this new program builds on the great success the University is having in the healthcare management and administration programs in the College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences. This program would provide the next level of education for students enrolled in those programs.

On a motion by Dr. Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Brown, the Board approved the Master of Science-Strategic Healthcare Management and Administration as presented. Chairman Chronister asked if there were further comments, and seeing none, he read the recommendation for action and called for the roll-call vote: It is recommended that the Athens State University Board of Trustees approve the Master of Science in Strategic Healthcare Management and Administration for the College of Business.

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y  
Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.

**VIII. Other Business – No Action Required**

1. Family Relationship Disclosure Notification
2. Bad Debt Write-Off
3. Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation available May 22 – June 4, 2020

## **IX. Report and Closing Comments of Board Members-Suspended**

- Board Committee Updates and Report Acceptance
  - Finance and Facilities Committee – Mr. Chronister
  - Enrollment and Student Affairs Committee – Mr. Mauldin
  - Academic Affairs Committee – Ms. Brown
  - Development Committee – Ms. Dickens

Chairman Chronister asked if there was any other business that needed to be discussed. Mr. Mauldin asked about the University's plans for addressing the COVID-19 situation and the return to campus.

Dr. Way explained:

- staff will be reporting back to work next week. 50% will report back to campus and 50% will telework for next week.
- thorough guidelines will be followed next week to include: 1) self-screening, 2) only entrances to get on the campus, 3) each individual will be screened at these entrances with thermal thermometer and a asked a series of questions, 4) once cleared the individual will receive an wristband that must be worn at all times while on campus (band colors will change daily), 5) once inside buildings individuals are expected to follow hygiene, sanitation, and social distancing protocols, 6) masks will not be required, but face coverings will be encouraged, and 7) individuals should establish rules of engagement when engaging with others.
- The Governor determines if the University will be allowed to offer face-to-face courses. If students return to campus there will be classroom guidelines. Classes have already been moved to larger environments were possible.
- The University will be following Alabama Department of Public Health and Center for Disease Control recommendations.
- Have protocol for if an individual tests positive. Chairman Chronister asked if anyone on campus had tested positive. Dr. Way responded no. Chairman Chronister thanked Dr. Way and the staff for working so diligently to provide a safe environment.

Dr. Way thanked his staff for their hard work during the last few weeks and also thanked Senator Orr for his support in the budget process.

## **X. Adjourn**

On a motion made by Mr. American and seconded by Mr. Dunnavant, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – Y  
Crystal Brown – Y  
Ronnie Chronister – Y  
Cathy Dickens – Y  
Bill Dunnavant – Y



Approved by the Board of Trustees  
July 17, 2020

Macke Mauldin – Y  
Senator Arthur Orr – Y  
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Y  
Missy Ming Smith – Y

The vote was unanimous in approval of the motion.