

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
May 17, 2024**

The Athens State University Board of Trustees (also referred herein as the Board) held a meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2024 in the Sandridge Student Center Ballroom to consider University matters.

PRESIDING: Mr. Jim America

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by Mr. Jim America.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following Board members were present and constituted a quorum to conduct business:

Mr. Jim America
Ms. Cathy Dickens (joined electronically at 2:41 pm)
Mr. Bill Dunnivant
Mr. Mac McCutcheon
Senator Arthur Orr (electronically)
Mr. Goodrich 'Dus' Rogers
Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried (electronically)
Mrs. Missy Ming Smith

Also present were Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Interim 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 Mike Underwood were absent. Approximately 100 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
Cathy Dickens – No Answer
Bill Dunnivant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the minutes from the February 9, 2024 Board meeting by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens – No Answer
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES
Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one officially registered for public comment.

OLD BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTION

The Board received the Executive Committee minutes from March 18, 2024 and April 2, 2024 that was previously distributed electronically.

NEW BUSINESS, PENDING MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

President's Contract – Dr. Catherine Wehlburg (Attachment A)

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board accepted the contract, as presented by the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, for Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, as the 39th President of Athens State University. Mr. Shane Black explained the minor changes made from feedback from various Board members. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES	Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Cathy Dickens – No response.	Dus Rogers – YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES	Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – No response.
Mac McCutcheon – YES	Missy Ming Smith - YES

2024 Factors for Annual Performance Incentive (Attachment B)

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board accepted the 2024 Factors for Annual Performance Incentive, as presented by the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, for Dr. Catherine Wehlburg. Mr. Black provided background on the document. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

New Board Policy – Additional Employee Compensation Derived from President’s Annual Performance Incentive Payments (Attachment C)

On a motion made by Senator Orr and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board accepted the new Board policy – Additional Employee Compensation Derived from President’s Annual Performance Incentive Payments, as presented by the Board of Trustees Executive Committee. Mr. Black explained the need for this University Policy. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr - YES
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

Board of Visitors Nomination/Appointment (Attachment D)

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board accepted the President’s recommendation and approved the appointment of the following individuals to the Board of Visitors for a 3-year term.

College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Eric Smith

College of Business
Mr. Mark Dunn

This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr – not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

**Strategic Planning Committee – Board of Trustees Representative
(Attachment E)**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the nomination for Mr. Bill Dunnivant to serve as the Board representative on the University’s Strategic Planning Council. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnivant – Abstain
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr - not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

**New Academic Program – BA in Music Industry Studies – College of Arts and Sciences
(Attachment F)**

On a motion made by Mr. Dunnivant and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board approved the BA in Music Industry Studies for the College of Arts and Sciences. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr - not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

**New Academic Program: GR Certificate – Elementary Mathematics Coaching
College of Education
(Attachment G)**

On a motion made by Mr. McCutcheon and seconded by Mr. Rogers, the Board approved GR certificate in Elementary Mathematics Coaching for the College of Education. This motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnivant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr - not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

**ACHE Information Item: College of Business
Restructure of Academic Departments 2024-2025 (Attachment H)**

**ACHE Information Item: College of Education
Restructure of Academic Departments 2024-2025 (Attachment I)**

**ACHE Information Item: Name change of concentration/track/option BSED in Technical
Education (Attachment J)**

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the three information items to ACHE. The motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens - YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr - not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried - YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

2024-2025 Tuition/Fee Schedule (Attachment K)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the 2024-2025 Tuition/Fee Schedule, as presented (2% increase and \$1 increase in Tech Fee). The motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens – YES
Bill Dunnavant – NO
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr – not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – Abstain
Missy Ming Smith - NO

Contract Approval: Vertical Communications (Attachment L)

On a motion made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board approved the contract with Vertical Communications for a new phone system for the University. The motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

Jim America – YES
Cathy Dickens – YES
Bill Dunnavant – YES
Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr – not attending during this vote
Dus Rogers – YES
Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – YES
Missy Ming Smith - YES

OTHER BUSINESS (No Action Required)

Learning Partnerships

Dr. Keith Ferguson provided an update on Learning Partnerships.

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.

Employment of Relatives Disclosure

The Board received employment of relatives disclosure since February 2024.

Employment Benefits Package

The Board received handouts explaining employee benefits package.

Bad Debt Write-Off

The Board received notification of bad debt write-off.

Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

The Board of Trustees self-evaluation will open on June 3rd and close on June 14, 2024.

Save-The-Date Meet the President Garden Party

June 7, 2024 6:00-7:30 pm – Alumni

June 21, 2024 5:00 – 6:30 pm – Community/Donor

President’s Report/Update

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

- 1. Upcoming planning.
- 2. Enrollment Update
- 3. Alumni and Donor Relations Update
- 4. Talking points about Athens State University

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. America

Mr. America provided the Enrollment and Student Affairs Committee update.

Academic Affairs Committee – Mr. Dunnivant

Mr. Dunnivant provided the Academic Affairs Committee update.

External Affairs Committee – Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith provided the External Affairs Committee update.

On a motion by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. McCutcheon, the Board accepted the Board Committee reports.

Jim America - YES
 Cathy Dickens - YES
 Bill Dunnivant – YES
 Mac McCutcheon – YES

Senator Arthur Orr – no attending during this vote
 Dus Rogers – YES
 Sandra Sims-deGraffenried – YES
 Missy Ming Smith - YES

CLOSING COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. America adjourned the Athens State University Board of Trustees meeting at 3:56 pm.