



**Athens State University  
Board of Trustees  
Development Committee Meeting  
July 19, 2019**

1. **Call to Order** – The eighth meeting of the Development Committee of the Athens State University Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried. The meeting was held at Athens State University in the second floor conference room of Waters Hall.
2. **Roll Call** – On roll call, the following Development Committee members were present and constituted a quorum to conduct business:

Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, Chair  
Mr. David Brown  
Ms. Bethany Campbell  
Ms. Donna Coleman  
Ms. Naomi Dubois  
Mr. Jerry Evans  
Dr. Keith Ferguson  
Mr. Garth Lovvorn  
Mr. Macke Mauldin  
Ms. Susan Ming  
Ms. Rachel O’Sullivan  
Ms. Betty Ruth-Oliver  
Dr. Debra Vaughn  
Tonyia Bowling (Recording)

Mr. Mitchell Bazzel, Mr. Glenn Conner, Mr. Nat Richardson, and Mr. Clint Shelton were absent.

3. **Review of May 17, 2019** – Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried presented minutes from the May 17, 2019 meetings of the Development Committee. Mr. Garth Lovvorn made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jerry

Evans. The minutes were approved as presented by affirmative voice vote of the voting members present.

4. **Staff Update** – Dr. Keith Ferguson introduced Rachel O’Sullivan, Director of Major Gifts and Annual Giving and Chris Hamilton, Consultant.
5. **Campaign Financial Update through June 30, 2019** – Dr. Ferguson provided a capital campaign update through June 30, 2019 reporting \$1,268,790 in gifts and \$6,260,105 in pledges for a campaign total of \$7,528,895.
6. **Scholarship Update** – Dr. Ferguson reported that 197scholarships totaling \$208,334 have been awarded for the 2019-2020 academic year.
7. **Brown Hall Update** – Dr. Ferguson provided an update on Brown Hall. He reported that the plans have been received from the architects and the projection for the restoration of Brown Hall is \$4 million. This estimate includes furnishings. A rendering of the building is still needed and has been requested. Collateral needs to be developed which will include a video to tell the story of the importance of Brown Hall to the campus. The architects report that the building is structurally sound, has a functioning HVAC system, has an appropriate exterior and roof, and has been waterproofed. An elevator will have to be added to the building. The cost to build Brown Hall was \$12,000; the building was completed in 1912. One challenge will be finding someone to do the work. The project will have to be submitted to the State Building Commission for approval and then sent out for bid.
8. **Nazaretian Home Update** – Dr. Ferguson provided an update on the Nazaretian Home. He reported that a meeting with the new architects had occurred the day prior to this meeting. The Alumni Association has committed \$50,000 to the project. The cost to complete the renovation will be included in the budget to be voted in the Board of Trustees meeting following the Development Committee meeting. Plans include installation of a walk-through history including a limited narrative of the University and Archives, two offices, and a meeting room.
9. **Grants Report** – Dr. Ferguson reported that application has been submitted for a Title III grant from the Department of Education and is the first time application has been made for a Title III grant at the University. He explained that the grant cycle is two years and is a strengthening institutions grant created for the purpose of helping low income students. He reported that 42.6% of Athens State students are eligible for a Pell Grant of approximately \$6,000 per year; Pell eligibility is household income of \$50,000 or less for a family of four. Before graduation, 11% of the students who receive Pell grants have exhausted financial aid before graduation. The Title III grant would be awarded over a five year period, \$400,000 per year. In approaching the grant application, Dr. Ferguson explained that the question to be answered was, “What problem can we solve?” The answer is that our students need additional resources in the form of more advising to transition from the classroom to careers, financial literacy, and academic skills. He explained that many of our students graduate with 149 hours although 124 are required

because they are transferring to Athens State with 82 earned hours in the form of multiple associate's degrees. Credit hours are applied in the order prescribed by SACS. If awarded the grant will be used to hire three professional academic advisors, build more work-based learning opportunities, hire a career advisor, and an accountant. The grant will specifically provide support to the University's efforts to increase diversity and inclusion. Dr. Ferguson stated that our legislators are writing letters of support for the grant. The award is for fiscal year 2019 and award announcements are anticipated by September 30.

Application for a \$400,000 research grant is being submitted by the College of Education. This grant would be used for travel, research, and presenting at conferences. Dr. Ferguson explained that the faculty has to write their own grants. The research focus of this grant would be identifying why minorities are underrepresented.

Application for an ALFA Foundation grant of \$25,000 is being submitted which would help veterans and their families. Dr. Ferguson explained that there are approximately 50 Athens State students who are veterans and do not receive financial aid through a GI Bill.

A third letter of intent is being submitted for a grant from Steelcase which would provide a two week summer enrichment program through the College of Education for ELL students or possibly in support of the TEAM teacher mentorship. The grant award would be \$300,000 over two years with the possibility of a two year extension. The Steelcase Foundation only funds grants in Grand Rapids and Limestone County. A grant for teacher mentoring was awarded in Grand Rapids.

Dr. Ferguson reported that the total for all grant applications is \$3.3 million. He explained that many students transferring to Athens face access issues. Our recruiters are seeking to remove these barriers to entry by reaching through the community colleges to high school students. Changing majors is another issue that contributes to students having more credit hours that they need to transfer; Athens State accepts only 64 credit hours.

**10. New Business** – Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried asked if there was any new business for discussion. No new business was presented.

**11. Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.