

Charter - Athens State University Board of Visitors

Article I – Organization.

1. There is hereby created an unincorporated association to be known as the ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS.

Article II - Purpose and Function.

The purpose of the Athens State University Board of Visitors is to foster a collaborative ecosystem that brings together faculty expertise, industry insight, and student opportunity. By connecting these strengths, the Board of Visitors helps advance academic excellence, enhance career readiness, strengthen partnerships with industry, deepen alumni engagement, and increase employer confidence in Athens State University graduates.

1. The Board of Visitors shall be a volunteer service organization of Athens State University.
2. The Board of Visitors serves solely in an advisory capacity to the President, academic leadership, and Board of Trustees. The Board of Visitors has no governing, fiduciary, or policy-making authority. Responsibility for all academic matters, including curriculum development and academic program approval, remains under the authority of the Board of Trustees in accordance with University governance policies, applicable laws, and accreditation standards.
3. The Board of Visitors may provide advisory input regarding workforce trends and emerging industry needs for consideration by faculty and academic leadership. Serving as a bridge between the University and the workforce, the Board of Visitors brings together leaders from industry, government, entrepreneurship, and the professions to collaborate with faculty and academic leadership to ensure that programs remain relevant, forward-looking, and responsive to workforce and economic demands.
4. The association shall exist both as a uniform entity for total university service, and divided into three equal entities to serve each of the respective Colleges of the University: College of Arts & Sciences; College of Business; and College of Education.

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5. In the total university role and within each College board role, the association shall have the following functions:
 - a. Workforce Intelligence – provide real-time insight into industry trends, helping faculty understand how fields are changing;
 - b. Curriculum Partnership – serve as thought partners with faculty in reviewing program learning outcomes, course content, and skill development;
 - c. Career and Experiential Pathways – create opportunities, access, mentoring, and support for students

Article III - Membership.

1. Board of Visitors shall consist of at least 30 members (10 for each college) and should include individuals who bring industry leadership, entrepreneurial innovation, government or policy insight, professional practice expertise, emerging technology perspectives, and University alumni working in the field.
2. The primary qualification for membership in the association shall be a commitment to actively advance the mission and standing of Athens State University.
3. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees (by process determined by that Board) on nomination by the President of Athens State University. Members will serve three-year terms. Any person who has served one term shall be eligible for re-appointment for a second term (3-year term). Any vacancy that occurs in the membership shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term by the same process as for regular membership. Each member in this scenario will serve the balance of the unexpired term, but shall be eligible for re-appointment for a three-year term.

The President of Athens State University shall solicit recommendations for membership appointments from individuals and organizations as appropriate.

Article IV - Meetings.

1. Each College Board of Visitors should meet at least 2 times annually with additional engagement through virtual consultations, curriculum workshops, student interaction, and industry site visits.
2. Meetings will be called by the Assistant Dean of each College.

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3. In some cases, smaller disciplinary-specific groups of members of the Board of Visitors may meet with their academic faculty counterparts to discuss program-level outcomes, courses, and workforce needs.

Article V- Amendments.

1. This Charter may be amended at any time by action of the Board of Trustees.
2. Amendments may be recommended by such Board of Visitors on its own initiative or in response to suggestions made by the President.

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