

**JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Winter meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama on **Monday, January 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. CDT.**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order and stated that this promises to be a very exciting year for JSU and he looks forward to the challenges ahead.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mrs. Beth Meehan, First Lady of JSU, to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett asked that Dr. William Meehan open the meeting with an invocation.

Mr. Bennett congratulated Dr. Meehan upon receiving the Etowah County Chamber of Commerce's Legacy Award for his involvement in economic development.

Roll call showed the following members of the Board of Trustees were:

**PRESENT:**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman  
Mr. Jim Coxwell  
Mr. Clarence W. Dauge, III  
Mr. Thomas Dedrick  
Senator Vivian Davis Figures  
Mr. Randall Jones  
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main  
Mr. Randy Owen  
Mr. Ronnie Smith  
Dr. Melanie Wallace, Faculty Senate President  
Mr. Brett Johnson, Student Government Association

**ABSENT:**

Governor Robert Bentley  
Dr. Thomas Bice

Chairman Bennett recognized Mr. Brett Johnson to give a report on "Increasing Enrollment at JSU". Mr. Johnson stated that a survey was issued to JSU students which asked them to state the top reasons they chose to attend JSU, what JSU could do to retain

them until graduation, and what JSU could do to recruit more students like them. The results were compiled into his report which he shared with the Board of Trustees. Some of the top reasons stated that they chose to attend JSU were (1) proximity to hometown; and (2) affordability and lack of hidden or additional fees. Among the top ways to recruit students to JSU which were reflected in the survey were providing more full and partial scholarships and increasing the amount of online degree and hybrid course offerings and lowering the cost of online course offerings.

One suggestion from students was to develop a better quality of academic advisement through improved communication with students about academic progress and having a more approachable faculty. The Board was concerned that students receive quality academic advisement. Dr. Wallace stated that this issue has been addressed by the Faculty Senate and they are trying to find ways to make improvements in this area. Mr. Owen stated that Mr. Johnson has a complete report that he would be able to share with the Board. Chairman Bennett thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and stated that the Board would be happy to allow him to present again at the next meeting if he has anything else he would like to share with them.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Bennett asked that the minutes of the October 20, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting be reviewed.

**Mr. Clarence Daugette made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees minutes as written. Mr. Jim Coxwell seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.**

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Melanie Wallace, Faculty Senate President, to the Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Wallace stated that in the January Faculty Senate meeting their theme was "Increasing Enrollment and Retaining Students". Mr. Tim Garner and Ms. Buffy Lockette were guest speakers at the meeting and Mr. Brett Johnson gave his presentation about enrollment and presented the results of the student survey. They discussed ways that we could all work together to make improvements in these areas. She invited the Board to share ideas they might have on how to improve advisement with her. On behalf of the Faculty Senate she thanked Mr. Ronnie Smith for being the guest speaker at their November meeting. Mr. Smith, Ms. Euris Belle, of Diversified Search, and Dr. Rosalynn Martin, Director of Human Resources, met with the Senate in November to give them an update on the Presidential search process. She stated that the faculty appreciates the fact that they are being included in the search process to help identify a new President. Dr. Wallace stated that she would like to invite any of the Board members to attend Faculty Senate meetings at any time. The next meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 on the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Houston Cole Library.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Randy Owen, Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, stated that the Committee had the following action items to bring before the Board:

Motion #1 - The Academic Affairs Committee recommends approval of a Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for a Bachelor of Science degree program in Respiratory Therapy to be implemented by the College of Nursing in the fall of 2016.

**Coming from the Academic Affairs Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.**

Motion #2 – The Academic Affairs Committee recommends approval to expand the graduate program in nursing to include a Family Nurse Practitioner Program; an Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner/Acute Program; and an Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner/Primary Program. Implementation will be fall of 2016.

**Coming from the Academic Affairs Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion from the Board the Motion was adopted unanimously.**

Motion #3 – The Academic Affairs Committee recommends approval of a NISP to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for a Doctorate in Nursing Practice for implementation in fall of 2016.

**Coming from the Academic Affairs Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion from the Board the Motion was adopted unanimously.**

### **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

Mr. Jim Coxwell, Chairman of the Athletic Committee, stated that the Athletic Committee met, but does not have any action items at this time. He recognized Mr. Greg Seitz, Interim Director of Athletics, to give some highlights from his Athletic Department report. The full Athletic Department report was placed under Tab 4 in the Trustees binder. Mr. Seitz stated that athletics had an outstanding fall, both on the field and in the classroom. The athletes set a record for grade point averages, with a cumulative gpa of all sixteen teams of 3.11 which is the highest in JSU history. Fourteen of our sixteen sports had a team gpa of 3.0 or better for the first time ever. Two hundred and one of three hundred eleven enrolled student athletes (63%) had a 3.0 or higher gpa. He thanked all the people who work in Academic Services for helping with that accomplishment. Mr. Seitz recognized Head Soccer Coach Neil Macdonald and said that for the first time since 2006 our Soccer Team advanced to the OVC tournament and for the first time ever they made it to the OVC championship games. In addition, Coach Macdonald was named OVC Coach of the Year. Mr. Seitz recognized Head Football Coach John Grass and congratulated him for a great football season. For the first time ever we were undefeated in the OVC and had eighteen players who earned All OVC player honors.

Coach Grass was named OVC Coach of the Year and the AFCA Regional Coach of the Year. Mr. Seitz reported that the Volleyball Team had a great season as well and advanced to the OVC tournament for the first time since 2010 under the leadership of Head Coach Terry Gamble. He stated that former JSU golfer, Danny Willett, has qualified to play in the Masters and that the JSU Rifle Team is currently ranked #3 in the country and is hosting the OVC championships on February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Seitz invited the Board to attend Softball Fan Day on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at University Field. Over 2,000 fans are expected to attend. The softball season opener against The University of Alabama will played on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The spring football game will be played on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### **BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Ronnie Smith, Chairman of the Building and Finance Committee, made the following motion on behalf of the Building and Finance Committee:

Due to upcoming new programs to be offered by the College of Nursing, additional space that is not available on campus is needed. In concept, an agreement has been reached with RMC-Jacksonville to sublease space in the Brookstone Physician's Center for that purpose. JSU will provide limited funding for leasehold improvements to build-out approximately 3,500 square feet to JSU specifications for a simulation lab. A negotiated improvement allowance will be provided by RMC-Jacksonville. In turn, JSU will lease the space at a rate determined to cover the cost of the build-out plus operational costs, primarily maintenance and utilities. A Letter of Intent is being developed to finalize the plans. A ten-year lease is proposed to allow RMC-Jacksonville to recover the cost of the leasehold improvements plus operating expenditures.

A Motion is presented to authorize the President to negotiate the described long-term lease.

**Coming from the Building and Finance Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion the motion was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Smith presented the 2013-14 Annual Financial Statement to the Board and explained that the report consists of unaudited financial statements that are presented to the State Examiners so they can conduct their audit. Mr. Smith stated that the document is presented as an information item and that no action was required from the Board.

Mr. Smith reported that the property exchange with the City of Jacksonville is still ongoing. We are in the process of getting titles cleared and paperwork prepared. This transaction should be completed soon.

Mr. Smith told the Board that the Presidential Search is currently being handled by Diversified Search. He said that the faculty provided good feedback when he and Ms. Euris Belle attended the Faculty Senate meeting. Stakeholder meetings were also held at the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, on campus with faculty and staff,

and with members of the Alumni Association. Mr. Barry Vines and Ms. Euris Belle from Diversified Search took the suggestions and comments from all these meetings and used them to develop a leadership profile which was utilized to advertise the position. The position will remain open until February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Search and Screening Committee is scheduled to meet on campus on February 25<sup>th</sup> to make decisions about how to proceed with narrowing the selection of candidates and discuss ways to best protect the anonymity of the candidates. Once the candidates have been narrowed down to the finalists, these people will be brought to campus for extensive interviews and presentations. Surveys will be made available to faculty and staff if they wish to provide feedback to the Trustees on each of the candidates. Mr. Smith anticipates that by the April Board of Trustees meeting the finalists will have been identified and given to the Board for their review and selection.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **I. Capital Projects**

#### **Building 3181 at Fort McClellan Campus**

Dr. Meehan reported that Hale Building Company of Anniston has completed Phases I (Under slab vapor barrier) and II (Below grade waterproofing). Phase III (Above grade waterproofing) will be completed by the end of January. All costs are being split 50-50 between JSU and GSCC and total project costs for all three deficiencies are \$312,978.

#### **Coliseum Phase II Improvements**

Dr. Meehan told the Board that the design consultant, Infinity Architecture out of Montgomery, is approximately 75% complete with the design. Bids for construction are anticipated for the end of February. Construction is planned for summer of 2015 and is budgeted at \$1.3 million.

#### **Logan Hall Chiller Replacement**

Dr. Meehan stated that mechanical engineer, Whorton Engineering of Anniston, has completed the design. Bids were received January 6<sup>th</sup> and the project was awarded to Jake Marshall of Birmingham. Work will commence this month and be completed prior to spring break. Total costs are projected at \$211,182.

#### **Martin Hall Chiller Replacement**

Dr. Meehan reported that the project is to replace the 200 ton chiller at Martin Hall: 1 of 2 R123 refrigerant chillers remaining on campus. Whorton Engineering of Anniston is the design consultant and Jake Marshall of Birmingham is the contractor. Work has commenced and should be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Total costs are projected at \$120,625.59

#### **Outdoor Track Re-surfacing**

Dr. Meehan told the Board that the design consultant, Holcomb Norton Partners of Birmingham, and contractor, Lower Brothers, Inc. of Birmingham are nearing completion of re-surfacing the outdoor running track. All that remains is the final striping. Totals costs are projected to be \$60,000.

**Salls Hall: ADA Ramp**

Dr. Meehan reported that the design consultant, Christian and Associates of Anniston, and contractor, Hale Building Company of Anniston, are constructing an ADA assessable ramp for the main entrance of Salls Hall. Project is underway and scheduled to be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Costs are projected at \$50,000.

**Stephenson Hall Wellness Center**

Dr. Meehan stated that substantial completion occurred on February 13, 2012 and the Year End Inspection was held February 23, 2013. On April 1, 2013, the contractor requested an arbitration hearing before the State Building Commission concerning his claims for additional compensation. That hearing was held Tuesday, September 10, 2013 and we are awaiting a final decision from the State Building Commission.

**Tennis Court Re-surfacing**

Dr. Meehan stated that Lower Brothers, Inc. of Birmingham completed the resurfacing of the tennis courts. Total costs are \$49,800.

**Theron Montgomery Building Chiller Replacement**

Dr. Meehan reported that this project is to replace a 200 ton chiller at TMB: 1 of 2 R123 refrigerant chillers remaining on campus. Whorton Engineering of Anniston is the design consultant and Pettus Services of Rogersville is the contractor. Work has commenced and should be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Total costs are projected at \$198,286.20.

**University Development**

Dr. Meehan explained that property at 504 Pelham Road (between Waffle House & Wesley Foundation) has been purchased and University Development will be relocating once the facility is improved. Plans are for the facility to be occupied by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Improvements include signage, HVAC, painting, ADA accessible ramp, landscaping, electrical, plumbing, telephone, data, etc. Including purchase price, costs are projected at \$285,000.

**II. University Update****A. Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges**

Dr. Meehan told the Board that behind his report was a letter from Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges officially recognizing the reaffirmation of JSU's accreditation. The next reaffirmation will be in 2024.

He stated that Dr. Wheelan's letter also requested a report on the University's Quality Enhancement Plan which is due February 16<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, who serves as our SACSCOC liaison, has already completed this report and submitted it last week. JSU "Fifth Year Interim Report" will be due in 2019 and will be a further follow-up on our Quality Enhancement Plan.

Dr. Meehan thanked Dr. Louise Clark, Chair and Dr. Alicia Simmons, Co-Chair of the SACSCOC Compliance Certification Committee, Ms. Gena Christopher and our QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Committee, Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and JSU



SACSCOC Liaison, and all JSU faculty, staff, and students who assisted in this process. He stated that it was a monumental accomplishment and all deserve credit. With the honor of our Self-Study being chosen as a model study at the recent SACSCOC meeting this is the best review in the last four cycles (forty years) and congratulations is due to all.

### **B. Spring Enrollment and Housing**

Dr. Meehan indicated that the Spring Semester 2015 Enrollment Report was placed in the Trustees binder under Tab 4. Overall undergraduate enrollment when compared to spring semester last year is the same at 6,961 undergraduates. The College of Commerce and Business Administration increased by 56 students, dual enrollment was up by 148 students, and first time transfer students increased slightly. Distance learning enrollments increased by 189 which helped offset decreases in other colleges and in graduate enrollment of 54 students which resulted in an overall enrollment for spring Semester 2015 of 7,894.

The Department of University Housing and Residence Life reported Spring 2015 overall occupancy rate at 86% for all university apartments, residence halls, and specialized group housing. Apartments were occupied at 92%, residence halls at 84% and specialized group housing at 92%.

Dr. Meehan stated that he had asked Mr. Kevin Hoult, Director of University Housing and Residence Life, to give an update on housing and activities that are taking place in Housing and Residence Life to provide the best possible residence life experience for our students.

Mr. Hoult provided a Powerpoint presentation on the strategic plan that has been developed by Housing and Residence Life and showed photographs of improvements that have been made in all residence halls to make them more attractive and appealing to prospective students. Mr. Hoult showed a video of an interactive brochure that was created by Marketing Services to help promote Housing and Residence Life.

### **C. RMC and JSU Health Center**

Dr. Meehan stated that he had placed under Tab 4 of the Trustees binder a letter from Mr. Joseph D. Weaver, CEO of RMC Jacksonville, with an attached operating statement from November 2013 through October 2014. Mr. Weaver's report indicates that RMC began to bill insurances and collect co-pays for non-student visits in Fall 2014 which resulted in collections of approximately \$11,000 for the last quarter of the year. It is expected that future quarters will result in a reduced subsidy from the University. Total clinic visits over the last year for the Health Clinic totaled 3,379. RMC is working to expand clinic hours and provide more educational offerings to students.

### **Academic Affairs and Student Affairs**

Dr. Meehan recognized Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, to give some brief comments about her division. He

stated that her complete report was placed in the Trustees binder under Tab 4. Dr. Turner thanked the Board for approving the new programs in Nursing. She stated that other programs on campus are being reviewed to see if our majors are where they need to be or if graduate programs need to be expanded or changed so other proposals may be coming in the future for approval by the Board to send to ACHE.

Dr. Turner stated that the examples presented by Mr. Hoult of the improvements that are being made in Housing fit nicely with the suggestions that students made in the survey that was prepared by Brett Johnson. She believes we are on the right track to meet the needs of our students with that strategic plan.

Dr. Turner stated we have been working hard to transform our learning environment to use more technology for teaching and transform our classrooms to make them more learning-centered. The Faculty Commons has been reviewing which classrooms to change first and she expects that around ten classrooms will be converted by the end of this fiscal year.

### **University Advancement**

Dr. Meehan recognized Dr. Charles Lewis, Vice President for University Advancement, and asked him to give a brief report on his division. Dr. Meehan stated that Dr. Lewis' entire report had been placed in the Trustees binder under Tab 4. Dr. Lewis stated that we continue to make very good progress on the Capital Campaign. At this time we have raised \$14.2 million. This is \$2 million over the total from the Fall Board of Trustees meeting. He hopes to continue at that pace and be able to go public with the campaign in another year. During 2014 \$2.9 million in private gifts, both outright gifts and pledges, was raised. This is a 30% increase over 2013.

Dr. Lewis stated that with the purchase of the house 504 Pelham Road we will be able to relocate all the development officers to a central location so that they can all work together and build on the synergy of fundraising. He recognized Mr. Earl Warren, Director of University Development, who introduced Ms. Christa Davis as a new Development Officer working primarily with the College of Arts and Sciences. He then recognized Mr. Bill Nash, who has been working as a Development Officer for the last five years, and stated that Mr. Nash has been promoted to Campaign Manager.

Dr. Lewis reminded the Board that the Founder's Day Luncheon will be held on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 a.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Stadium Tower. This is a time to honor our scholarship donors and recipients and recognize members of the Heritage and Founders Society.

Dr. Lewis stated that the Alumni Relations office will be sending out a survey in order to gain more information about what Alumni expect from the Alumni Association as we move forward. Alumni Relations is pairing with Career Services to work on building mentorships with our alumni.



Dr. Lewis stated that Buffy Lockette, Angie Finley and members of the Information Technology Department have worked together to create a website which is [www.jsu\meehanlegacy](http://www.jsu\meehanlegacy) where people can go to see a bio, photos, news items, etc. about Dr. Meehan. There is also an opportunity to fill out a form and give a testimony about how Dr. Meehan has influenced their lives.

Dr. Lewis recognized Mr. Tim Garner, Executive Director of Marketing Services, to tell the Board about a new program in his division called Interactive Digital. He introduced Ms. Shannon Crutchfield, Lead Interactive Designer, to tell the Board more about Interactive Digital and to show a presentation of different videos that have been created by this division to help advertise various programs on campus.

### **Research and Collaboration**

Dr. Meehan recognized Dr. Alicia Simmons, Vice President for Research, Planning and Collaboration, and asked her to give a brief update on accomplishments within her division. He stated that Dr. Simmons' entire report had been placed in the Trustees binder under Tab 4. Dr. Simmons stated that she had provided the Board with copies of the updated Factbook for Spring Semester 2015. The theme of this year's Factbook is Innovation and there is an introduction section provided that gives a summary of many of the grants we have received that have helped us increase our awards last year by 515%. There is also a section that shows all of the strategies in the University's Strategic Plan. There is a section in the back that shows where students were surveyed and asked questions about their experiences at JSU.

Dr. Meehan recognized Mr. Don Thacker, and stated that Mr. Thacker has returned from retirement to serve as our Interim Director of Internal Audit until a permanent Director is identified.

### **Executive Session**

Dr. Meehan presented a statement from Mr. Sam Monk, University Counsel, who certified the Executive Session necessary to discuss pending litigation and controversies not currently being litigated, but likely to be litigated if the Board takes a proposed course of action.

Dr. Meehan called roll for voting to approve the Executive Session. The following persons voted:

Chairman Jim Bennett, Aye  
 Mr. Jim Coxwell, Aye  
 Mr. Clarence W. Dauge, Aye  
 Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Aye  
 Mr. Randall Jones, Aye  
 Mr. Randy Owen, Aye  
 Mr. Ronnie Smith, Aye

Mr. Dedrick and Mrs. Main were not present for the vote.

**Chairman Bennett reported a unanimous vote for the Executive Session and stated that the Board members would return for a public vote on any actionable items.**

Upon returning from Executive Session Chairman Bennett presented the following resolution for approval by the Board of Trustees:

#### **RESOLUTION**

Whereas, Dan and Ro Bryant have been loyal and committed supporters of Jacksonville State University; and,

Whereas, Dan Bryant is a 1969 graduate of Jacksonville State University with a degree in business and an active member of the Board of Visitors for the College of Commerce and Business Administration; and,

Whereas, Dan and Ro Bryant wish to honor the memory of Dan's father, Samuel Royce "Mutt" Bryant who, although he only had a sixth grade education, understood the transformative power of education and made sure that all three of his sons attained a degree in higher education; and,

Whereas, Dan and Ro Bryant have made a generous outright gift of \$100,000 to Jacksonville State University for the Deeply Rooted. Future Driven. Campaign.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that the 5th floor entrance lobby of Stadium Tower be named the Samuel Royce "Mutt" Bryant Lobby.

Now therefore be it further resolved that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its thanks and gratitude to Dan and Ro Bryant for this generous gift to Jacksonville State University in memory of Dan's father.

This Resolution presented the 26th day of January, 2015.

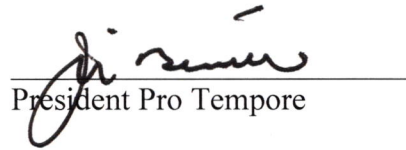
**Mr. Clarence Daugette made a motion that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Senator Vivian Figures and approved unanimously by the Board.**

**Mr. Clarence Daugette made a motion that JSU prepare a Resolution thanking Mr. Warren Koegel for his service as Athletic Director. Mr. Thomas Dedrick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. The Board also requested that Dr. Meehan send flowers and well wishes from the Board to Mr. Koegel's wife, as she is recovering from a recent surgery.**

**Mr. Ronnie Smith made a motion that Mr. Jim Bennett be reappointed to continue serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Randy Owen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.**

There being no further business, Chairman Bennett declared that the meeting was adjourned and stated that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held at the Houston Cole Library on April 20, 2015.

  
Secretary

  
President Pro Tempore

