

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held a Special Called meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama on **Friday, May 8, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. CDT.**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order and welcomed Mayor Johnny Smith to the Board of Trustees meeting.

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.

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
Senator Vivian Davis Figures
Mr. Randall Jones
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main
Mr. Randy Owen
Mr. Ronnie Smith
Dr. Melanie Wallace, Faculty Senate President
Mr. Tyler Brown, Student Government Association

ABSENT:

Governor Robert Bentley
Dr. Thomas Bice
Mr. Thomas Dedrick

Chairman Bennett stated that when the vote is taken for the selection of a new President, Trustee Thomas Dedrick will be joining the meeting via conference telephone, as allowed by state law, so that he will be able to participate in the voting process.

Chairman Bennett welcomed newly elected SGA President, Mr. Tyler Brown, to his first Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Melanie Wallace, Faculty Senate President, to the Board of Trustees meeting.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Coxwell, Chairman of the Athletic Committee stated that JSU graduate, Danny Willett, placed third in the Cadillac Match Play which qualifies him for the PGA Tournament. He stated that he is very proud of this accomplishment by Mr. Willett.

On behalf of the Athletic Committee Mr. Coxwell made a Motion to allow a permanent sign to be installed in the outfield above the deck at Rudy Abbott Field called Cocky's Corner. The sign was donated by supporters of the baseball program and has been reviewed by the coaching staff, athletic administration and the Physical Plant staff and all have approved the sign. Mr. Coxwell stated that pictures of the sign were included in the Trustees Binder for review.

Coming from the Athletic Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion among the Board the Motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Bennett stated that the Board had a very important task to review and that it was necessary for them to go into Executive Session for approximately fifteen minutes. A statement from Mr. Sam Monk, University Counsel, was placed in the Trustees Binder to certify that Alabama law (Act 2005-40, Section 7(a)(1) provides that an Executive Session may be held to discuss the good name or character of an individual.

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. Daugette, Aye
Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Aye
Mr. Randall Jones, Aye
Mrs. Gale Main, Aye
Mr. Randy Owen, Aye
Mr. Ronnie Smith, Aye

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 Mr. Thomas Dedrick joined the meeting by conference telephone.

Chairman Bennett called the Board of Trustees back into session. He stated that the purpose of today's meeting was to select a new Chief Executive Officer to succeed Dr. William A. Meehan who is retiring on July 1, 2015. He stated that Dr. Meehan has successfully led the University since his appointment on July 1, 1999.

Mr. Bennett stated that the selection was made after a thorough review by the Presidential Search and Screening Committee which was chaired by Mr. Ronnie Smith. Mr. Bennett stated that we owe Mr. Smith and the Committee members our deep gratitude for their commitment and service to this important responsibility.

Mr. Bennett also recognized other Trustee members who served on the Presidential Search and Screening Committee: Mrs. Gale Main, Mr. Clarence Dauge, Mr. Thomas Dedrick, and Mr. Randy Jones. Mr. Bennett asked that any other members of the Committee stand and be recognized.

Chairman Bennett recognized Mr. Barry Vines and Ms. Euris Belle of Diversified Search and thanked them for their assistance throughout the search process.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH AND SCREENING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ronnie Smith, Chairman of the Presidential Search and Screening Committee, stated that one of the most important roles of a Board of Trustees is the employment of the President. The Trustee Bylaws state that the President shall be elected by and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees and the Board shall fix the length and terms of employment of the President of the University. He stated that it has been a pleasure for this Board of Trustees to serve with President William A. Meehan. Mr. Smith stated that Dr. Meehan's years at JSU are replete with accomplishments and on a personal level he has observed Dr. Meehan to be a man of faith, a good husband and father, and a good friend of his for nearly twenty-five years. He stated that some of Dr. Meehan's greatest attributes are his openness, his approachability and his persuasiveness. He stated that he is pleased that Dr. Meehan and Mr. Bennett persuaded him to be the Chairman of the Presidential Search and Screening Committee and although this has been one of the most difficult experiences he has ever been involved with, it has also been one of the most rewarding. He said that it was rewarding to see so many capable and qualified candidates who were interested in being a part of Jacksonville State University and it was difficult to narrow the selection down to one candidate.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Barry Vines and Ms. Euris Belle of Diversified Search and stated that they have done an excellent job of conducting this search. They offered sound advice and counsel to the entire committee during the process and provided a great list of candidates. They represented the candidates and JSU in a most professional manner.

Mr. Smith thanked the Search and Screening Committee for their service and said that they invested many hours in this process and represented various constituencies in a great fashion. It was the Committee's objective to present a list of candidates that would make the Trustees' decision very difficult and this goal was certainly met. Three outstanding candidates were selected to make on-site visits to JSU.

Mr. Smith thanked Dr. Meehan for his help during this process in answering questions and giving guidance. He also thanked Don Killingsworth, Pam Stinson, Allyson Barker, Sam Monk, KaSandra Russaw and the Human Resources staff for their valuable assistance. Mr. Smith recognized Leslie Klasing of Waldrep, Stewart and Kendrick and thanked her for helping with the hiring process.

Mr. Smith stated that the entire campus was supportive during the interview process and he thanked those members of the faculty and staff who participated and said that the feedback they provided contributed to the decision that was made.

Mr. Smith nominated Dr. John M. Beehler as the next President of Jacksonville State University and made a motion that the Board of Trustees allow Mr. Bennett to execute an employment agreement with Dr. Beehler. Senator Figures seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. John M. Beehler and his wife, Dr. Pamela Beehler, as the Twelfth President and First Lady of Jacksonville State University.

Dr. Beehler stated that he was humbled and honored to have been chosen to serve as the Twelfth President of Jacksonville State University. He said that JSU has enormous potential and he looks forward to working together with everyone to accomplish great things. He said that he would not be able to accomplish this alone and asked for the full support of the faculty, staff and students as we move forward to the bright future of Jacksonville State University. He stated that he and his wife, Pam, are both totally committed to JSU and are honored to be able to serve here and said that through the grace of God we will all work together to make an even greater University.

Mr. Greg Seitz, Interim Director of Athletics, presented Dr. Beehler with a JSU baseball jersey and asked him to throw out the first pitch at the JSU baseball game on Friday night, May 8th.

Mr. Bennett stated that Jacksonville State is fortunate to have had Dr. Meehan's leadership over the past sixteen years and said that we could not have asked for a better President or a better representative of the University. He said that Dr. Meehan is well respected state-wide in the Legislature and in the community. He stated that although we welcome Dr. Beehler, we hate to see Dr. Meehan go.

Dr. Meehan thanked the Board of Trustees for all the support they have given him and Mrs. Meehan and stated that this Board is exceptional. He said that the Board is unified and is clear in their purpose and support of this institution; there is no doubt that every single one of them has always been in support of the University and wanted the very best for it. He thanked the Board for the many kindnesses they have shown his family not just over the last sixteen years, but years before. He said that the Board

members are good personal friends and will remain friends. He stated that the Meehans will remain in the area and will serve as a resource and support for the Beehlers to help make their presidency be even more successful than his and Mrs. Meehan's has been. Dr. Meehan thanked his staff for their support and for all they have done for the University community through the years. He stated that they have raised three children on campus and had the youngest children ever in the President's Home. They are currently making their way in the world thanks to this institution. He stated, "We will always be JSU Gamecocks."

Mr. Bennett called Dr. Beehler forward for the official signing of his employment contract, witnessed by Ms. Leslie Klasing, Board Attorney.


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 July 20, 2015.

Mr. Clarence Daugette presented Dr. Beehler with a copy the book The First One Hundred Years, which is a history of Jacksonville State University and stated that he looks forward to working with Dr. Beehler.

Mr. Randy Owen stated that Mr. Smith and the Presidential Search and Screening Committee did a great job and the Board made an excellent decision in choosing Dr. Beehler. He thanked the Beehlers for being a part of the JSU team and stated that we are all looking forward to working with them.

Mr. Daugette made a motion that the meeting adjourned. The motion was seconded by Senator Figures and unanimously approved by the Board.


Secretary


President Pro Tempore

