

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Summer meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama on **Monday, July 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. CDT.**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order and asked that President John M. Beehler 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
Mr. Thomas Dedrick
Senator Vivian Davis Figures
Mr. Tony L. Ingram
Mr. Randall Jones
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main
Mr. Randy Owen
Mr. Ronnie Smith
Dr. Windon Edge, Faculty Senate President
Mr. Tyler Brown, Student Government Association

ABSENT:

Governor Robert Bentley

Chairman Bennett welcomed President Beehler to his first JSU Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Pamela Beehler, First Lady of JSU, to her first Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mr. Tyler Brown to his first official Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Brown stated that the SGA has a lot of activities planned for the fall semester and he looks forward to the incoming freshmen arriving on campus.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Windon Edge, newly elected Faculty Senate President, to his first Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Edge stated that the Faculty Senate typically meets the second Monday of each month and invited the Board to attend any of

these meetings. The first meeting will be September 14th at 3:15 p.m. on the 11th Floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mr. Tony L. Ingram as the newest member of the Board of Trustees. The Legislature recently approved an amendment adding an out-of-state at-large member to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Ingram is from Jacksonville, Florida and was appointed to fill the out-of-state at-large position on the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bennett asked that the minutes of the April 20, 2015 and May 8, 2015 Board of Trustees meetings be reviewed.

Mr. Randy Jones made a motion to approve both sets of Board of Trustees minutes as written. Mr. Jim Coxwell seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Randy Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, stated that the Committee had a great meeting, but did not have any action items for review.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Coxwell, Chair of the Athletic Committee, stated that the Athletic Committee met, but did not have any action items to bring before the Board.

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ronnie Smith, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, presented the Interim FY 2015-2016 operations budget for the University. The budget allows the University to operate until the final budget is presented at the October 19, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting.

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 following resolution for the Board's approval:

RESOLUTION 568

WHEREAS, this Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining the infrastructure of the campus to support the delivery of quality educational programs and support services to the citizens of the State of Alabama and surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees are committed to the enhancement of the campus community and recognize the importance of the campus community experience to the growth of Jacksonville State University; and

WHEREAS, the President's House was last renovated in 2000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Trustees authorizes the President to accept bids for the Renovations to the President's House project at a budgeted cost of \$326,927. Project costs will be paid partially from internal funding.

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

Mr. Smith stated that clarifications need to be made in the contract between JSU and President Beehler. He asked that the Board approve a motion to allow Chairman Bennett to execute an amendment to the contract which stipulates that JSU will provide long-term disability insurance for President Beehler. In addition, President Beehler will be given 240 hours of annual leave upon his employment with the University.

Mr. Jim Coxwell made a motion that Chairman Bennett be allowed to execute the amended contract with President Beehler. Senator Figures seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Smith made a motion that the ten-year sublease with Regional Medical Center (RMC) for space in the Brookstone Physician's Center, adjacent to the RMC Jacksonville Hospital, which was negotiated by the President at the Board's request, be adopted by the Board. This facility will house JSU's nursing simulators. The lease is effective until June 30, 2025, at a monthly rental rate of \$4,649.50.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Beehler reported that the state of the University remains strong and the University community is poised for the continuation of JSU's tradition of excellence. He stated that the University has positive news to share, as indicated in reports from Academic and Students Affairs, Administrative and Business Affairs, Athletics, Government Affairs, Information Technology, Research, Planning and Collaboration, and University Advancement. Complete reports from each of these divisions were placed under Tab 4 of the Trustee binder.

President Beehler stated that he and First Lady Pamela Beehler have been overwhelmed by the reception they have received from the campus community during their first weeks of the presidency. He stated that everyone they have met has been very friendly and helpful to them as they have begun to navigate the campus and the surrounding community. He stated that they have spent a significant amount of time interacting with members of the campus community and they will continue to do so in an effort to learn more about the culture, traditions, people, programs and potential of our great University. They are committed to working with everyone to bring JSU to even greater levels of excellence and to working with members of the Jacksonville community and the Northeast Alabama region to help this area reach its potential.

President Beehler presented the Capital Projects Report for the University, followed by reports from the President's Staff in various key areas:

Capital Projects Report

Hammond Hall: HVAC, Art Gallery, Waterproofing

Improvements to Hammond Hall are progressing well. The underground waterproofing is complete and the Art Gallery enhancements are under way. The demolition of the existing HVAC system & piping is complete and the contractor, Stateline Mechanical of Woodland, AL, has begun installation of the new HVAC equipment and ductwork. All work is scheduled to be completed prior to fall classes commencing and the total budget for improvements is \$540,443.

Salls Hall: ADA Ramp

Hale Building Company of Anniston has completed the construction of an ADA assessable ramp for the main entrance of Salls Hall. Total costs were \$50,000.

Pete Mathew Coliseum: Flooring & Seating Replacement

Morris Building Company of Anniston has completed all major demolition and the installation of the raker beam support structure for the new seating. Electrical, metal stud and drywall, plumbing, and HVAC rough-ins are nearing completion. Aluminum decking and planks are 50% complete. Total projected costs are \$2.27 million and the project is scheduled to be completed by August 31st.

McGee Hall Boiler Replacement

Whorton Engineering of Anniston accepted bids July 9th. Apparent low bidder is Stateline Mechanical of Woodland, AL and project costs are \$84,166. The 1999, 1.26 million BTU boiler has become unreliable and inefficient. Work is scheduled to be completed prior to the heating season later in the fall.

President's House Improvements

With the departure of the Meehan family after sixteen years of occupation, several house integrity deficiencies such as a complete window replacement and several modernization improvements such as master bathroom renovations will be completed. Total project costs are estimated at \$326,927 and the architect is Bill Whittaker Architecture of Gadsden, AL. Work is scheduled to commence in August and be completed by November 30th.

Nursing Simulation Lab @ Brookstone

A ten year lease has been executed with RMC to create a simulation lab for the College of Nursing. 3,400 square feet of space on the second floor of the Brookstone building located beside the Jacksonville Hospital is being renovated by John Morris Building. Renovations are scheduled to be completed by Labor Day. Construction costs of \$468,940 have been incorporated into a \$16.41 per square foot lease agreement that also covers operating costs. The additional program to the college of nursing will commence this fall.

Stephenson Hall Wellness Center

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 September 10, 2013 and we are awaiting a final decision from the State Building Commission.

II. University Update

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Dr. Beehler recognized Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and asked Dr. Turner deliver the Academic and Student Affairs report. Dr. Turner reported the following accomplishments from her division:

On May 12th all JSU faculty were recognized for scholarship, teaching and service at the annual Faculty Awards Program.

JSU was recently notified of reaffirmations of accreditation for two of our academic disciplines. The National Association of Schools of Theater (NAST) reaffirmed the accreditation of the Drama program for ten years until 2025. The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) voted to extend accreditation of the Dietetics program until 2023.

JSU's proposed Bachelor of Science Program in Respiratory Therapy which was recently presented to ACHE is now being reviewed by all chief academic officers state-wide. The program will be on the agenda for the September 11th ACHE meeting in Montgomery.

A Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) was also submitted to ACHE for a Master of Social Work degree program. This is now being reviewed by all graduate deans in the State of Alabama. Once those reviews are complete we will then submit a proposal. Graduate program proposals for nurse practitioner and a doctorate in nursing practice are currently being revised and prepared for submission to ACHE at a future date. A proposal for a Master of Science degree in Instructional Technology will be presented for the Board's consideration at the October 19, 2015 meeting.

A new retention program called *Links to Success* is being implemented this fall and it will enhance academic advising and support for 100 freshmen. It is a pilot program that employs best practices such as early alert warning and intrusive advising to foster student success and is being funded by a federal grant.

A new form of math remediation is being implemented this fall. It is an online self-paced program. Faculty and tutors will be overseeing the project in order to assist students with moving through the remediation at their own pace, hopefully at a quicker pace, and a reduced cost to themselves. A video describing the program can be found on the JSU Website under Math Placement.

Dr. Turner introduced Dr. Joe Walsh, Associate Vice President for Educational Technology, to discuss a pilot program that was implemented this summer to focus on retaining students in online courses at the lower division level. Dr. Walsh explained that the program was created in an effort to encourage students to take classes online from JSU that they would ordinarily take at a junior college in the summer and then transfer back to JSU in the fall. Fourteen 100-200 level classes were offered at a reduced rate

online so that students could go home for the summer, but continue to be enrolled in JSU courses while they were away from campus. This provides continuity for the students and will hopefully help ensure that they return to campus in the fall. An in-depth study will be done to see how successful the program was and this information will be reported at a later date.

The Board noted that budget cuts are being made by the federal government that could negatively affect our ROTC program. It was agreed that every effort should be made to keep the ROTC program at JSU. Chairman Bennett asked President Beehler to prepare a letter of support for the ROTC program that will be signed by each member of the Board and sent to our senators and each member of our congressional delegation.

Administrative and Business Affairs

President Beehler called on Ms. Allyson Barker for the Administrative and Business Affairs report. Ms. Barker announced three personnel changes to her division. Dr. Heidi Louisy has joined JSU as our new Director of Human Resources. Mr. Joe Whitmore was promoted to Associate Vice President for Business and Auxiliary Affairs and Mr. Kevin McFry was promoted to Controller.

Athletics

Dr. Beehler recognized Mr. Greg Seitz, Interim Director of Athletics, and asked him to provide a brief update on Athletics. Mr. Seitz reported that JSU athletes excelled not only on the field, but also in the classroom during the 2014-15 academic year. Fourteen of sixteen athletic teams posted a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and for the fourth straight year the Athletic Department finished with a cumulative 3.15 grade point average, which is the highest in school history for all sports. 151 student athletes were named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll with a 3.25 grade point or higher. In addition, 17 athletes were named to the OVC Medal of Honor Roll with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. A total of 179 Gamecock student athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher during the academic year, which is more than 70 percent of all our student athletes.

Our Women's Basketball team was recently recognized by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association as an Academic Team Honor Roll. JSU had the 14th highest team grade point average with a 3.511. Mr. Seitz stated that this is a major accomplishment when you consider that only three years ago this team's GPA was 2.3. The Football team's spring GPA was 3.14 and they finished with a 3.09 GPA. Mr. Seitz thanked the staff of the Academic Center for Excellence for helping the athletes achieve these goals.

Government Affairs

Dr. Beehler called on Mr. Don Killingsworth for a report on Government Affairs. Mr. Killingsworth stated that the 2015 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature

concluded in early June. Changes to the JSU Board of Trustees were made during the session. An out-of-state at large position was added which replaced the State Superintendent of Education on the Board. Mr. Tony Ingram of Jacksonville, Florida was selected as the first out-of-state at large member. Terms for Board appointments were also changed to six years. This does not affect any members who are already serving on the Board, but will affect Mr. Ingram and any new appointments in the future.

Last year reciprocity legislation was passed making it easier for JSU to offer courses in all Southern Region Education Board (SREB) states without going through a long and expensive approval process. The 2015 legislation will expand that ability to participate in a newly-formed national agreement called State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA). The legislation also establishes a reciprocity committee to help negotiate and monitor distance education reciprocity agreements.

JSU's Operations and Maintenance budget increased slightly by .5% or \$176,702 for a total of \$35,516,827. Earmarking was increased 82% for our line items for a total of \$1,578,333.

Information Technology

Dr. Beehler recognized Mr. Vinson Houston, Vice President for Information Technology, and asked him to make brief comments about his division. Mr. Houston stated that wireless presence on campus has been increased all across campus, including residence halls. Students returning for the fall should be extremely pleased with the wireless service available to them in the residence halls. A backup Internet connection has been added to complement our primary Internet connection in order to provide more continuous access to Internet. Office 365 was recently provided to students as their email provider. This system is not only more robust from the standpoint of features, but also allows currently enrolled students to download and install up to five copies of MS Office on various devices at no charge to the student.

Planning, Research and Collaboration

Dr. Beehler recognized Dr. Alicia Simmons, Vice President for Planning, Research and Collaboration, and asked that she provide a brief report of activities in her division. Dr. Simmons stated that 450 people attended this year's CORE Academy as compared to 308 last year. Twenty-six K-12 school systems throughout Alabama are now working with us through CORE.

On July 23rd the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) will hold a conference in Portland, Oregon with the six regional universities and i3 grant partners that are now working with us through CORE to prepare for a national study.

University Advancement

Dr. Beehler recognized Dr. Charles Lewis, Vice President for University Advancement, and asked that he give a report on his division's activities. Dr. Lewis stated that since the April Board meeting almost \$2,000,000 has been added to the Capital Campaign. The Campaign is currently at a little over \$16,500,000 million. A \$200,000 gift has been received from the City of Jacksonville; \$20,000 per year for a ten-year period which will be divided between our athletics program and the Marching Southerners.

Dr. Beehler invited everyone to attend the dedication of William A. Meehan Hall on July 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the lobby of Meehan Hall, formerly Stadium Towers.

Executive Session

Dr. Beehler 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. Chairman Bennett stated that the Executive Session would last for approximately forty-five minutes.

Dr. Beehler 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
 Mr. Thomas Dedrick, Aye
 Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Aye
 Mr. Tony L. Ingram, 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 Chairman Bennett reported that the Board had one actionable item to consider.

Mr. Ronnie Smith made a motion that the title of President Emeritus be bestowed up Dr. William A. Meehan. Senator Vivian Davis Figures seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

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 October 19, 2015.


 Secretary


 President Pro Tempore