

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Spring meeting at Jacksonville State University's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, Alabama on **Monday, April 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. CDT.**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order.

Chairman Bennett requested 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
Mr. Jim Coxwell
Mr. Clarence W. Daugette, III
Mr. Thomas Dedrick
Senator Vivian Davis Figures
Mr. Randall Jones
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main
Mr. Randy Owen
Mr. Ronnie Smith
Dr. Teresa Gardner, Faculty Senate President
Ms. Jade Wagner, Student Government Association

ABSENT:

Governor Robert Bentley
Dr. Thomas Bice

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

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Teresa Gardner, Faculty Senate President, to the Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Gardner gave the following report to the Board:

- The ***Faculty Awards Reception*** is scheduled for 5:00pm on Tuesday, May 6th, on the fifth floor of Stadium Towers.
 - The **Outstanding Teacher Award** honors an outstanding faculty member in their efforts in teaching. The person selected for this honor will receive an honorarium of \$500, a budget of \$500 for expenses, and a framed certificate that recognizes this accomplishment.

- The **Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service** honors an outstanding faculty member in their achievements in the area of education or service to the civic community in the Jacksonville State University area. The person selected for this honor will receive an honorarium of \$500, and a framed certificate that recognizes this accomplishment.
- The **Raymond and Ruth Ringer Faculty Development Award** honors a faculty member who is actively engaged in exceptional scholarly research or professional development, and who would benefit from a monetary award for professional development or travel expenses. The person selected for this honor will receive an honorarium of \$1000 and a framed certificate recognizing this accomplishment.
- The **Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award** honors an outstanding faculty member for research, publication, or other original work in their field. The person selected for this honor will deliver a lecture, or an appropriate presentation, to the University community. The award carries an honorarium of \$500, and a budget of \$500 for expenses.
- The **Award for Excellence in Learning Technology** honors an outstanding faculty member who has contributed significantly to the enhancement of teaching and learning at Jacksonville State University through the sustained and innovative use of technology. The person selected for this honor will receive an honorarium of \$500, a budget of \$500 for expenses and a framed certificate that recognizes this accomplishment.
- The Executive Board invited Tim Garner to speak at the April Faculty Senate meeting. He talked about the services his office provides to faculty and their departments. After listening to Tim Garner's information, the **Senate voted to ask for professional development training this summer on the topics of 1) improving our customer service when dealing with students, 2) best practices for using social media to connect with students and advisees (guidelines and examples of how to use), and 3) designing our own faculty websites to provide information for classes and advisees (student handbooks, links to offices on campus, links to university policies, testing information, advisement information, advisement handbook, important semester dates.** Faculty wants to do our part to grow our student numbers.
- The Senate ordered **key chains** to pass out to graduates during graduation practice on Friday morning, May 2nd.
- The Senate made a **Recommendation on Faculty Workload** to the University Council which recommends removing the May term from our 9-month contracts. Other OVC schools have a fall and spring term requirement only. We are trying to get JSU in line

with other OVC schools. The University Council created a committee to review the Senate's recommendation. Committee members include: Dr. Fielding, Dr. Louise Clark, Allison Barker, John Bauer-Graham, and Dr. Joe Delap.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Ms. Jade Wagner, President of the Student Government Association, to the Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Wagner stated that this would be her last meeting with the Board and introduced Mr. Brett Johnson who will be taking her place as the SGA President beginning with the July meeting. She thanked the Board for their support of the students and stated that the general university fee that was implemented last year has allowed the SGA to provide three charging stations on campus, helped to build school spirit, and allowed them to provide a music and arts festival called *Cockystock* that was attended by over six hundred students. She believes all of this has helped to re-establish a friendly outlook within the SGA.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mr. Larry Chesser, Mayor of Fort Payne, to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mr. Troy Mueller, Chief Ranger of the National Park Service to the Board of Trustees meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bennett asked that the minutes of the January 27, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting be reviewed.

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

ADVENTURE RIDES & CONCEPTS, MR. CHARLIE WALDREP

Mr. Charlie Waldrep, attorney for the Board of Trustees, reported that the lease agreement for the educational zip line is not ready for final approval at this point. He stated that the co-founder of Days Inn, Mr. Bill Hitson, and a member of his financial team, Mr. Paul Thomas, had visited the Canyon Center and expressed an interest in constructing a hotel complex there. Negotiations for this project are ongoing and a further report will be presented at the July Board of Trustees meeting.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Randy Owen, Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee did not have any action items to present to the Board at this time.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Coxwell, Chairman of the Athletic Committee, stated that the Athletic Committee had no action items at this time.

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith presented the following Resolution for the Board's review and made a motion that it be approved:

RESOLUTION 559

WHEREAS, this Board of Trustees is committed to keep tuition at its lowest possible cost while maintaining the highest quality education for our student body; and

WHEREAS, it is Jacksonville State University's pledge to maintain tuition at or below the state median as reported by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, the University will have NO TUITION INCREASE for the 2014-2015 academic year for undergraduate and graduate students; and

WHEREAS, the 2014-2015 academic year is the second year with NO TUITION INCREASE for graduate students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Trustees agrees to maintain tuition and general university fees at the current level.

Coming from the Building and Finance Committee the motion did not require a second. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Smith stated that renovations to the Pete Mathews Coliseum had to rebid. The new bid saved the University \$70,000 and since it was lower than the original bid it did not require the Board to approve it again.

Mr. Smith explained that the JSU budget received a small increase over last year, but PEEHIP is increasing its employer rates from \$714 - \$780 per employee per month and we did not receive an appropriation from the Legislature to cover this expense. Because of this the University is looking at possible alternative insurance plans to offer employees. At this point PEEHIP still seems to be the best alternative. A recommendation about what to do about insurance will be presented for the Board's review at the July meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I. Capital Projects

Anders Hall (Round House) Phase II/Hammond Hall Restrooms

Dr. Meehan stated that this project, constructed by Forsyth Building Company and designed by Whorton Engineering, is complete. The total cost, including construction and design, was \$207,173. The project added needed ADA compliant restroom facilities for both Hammond Hall and Anders Roundhouse.

Building 3181 at Fort McClellan Campus

Dr. Meehan told the Board that Stephen Ward & Associates of Huntsville is performing a building envelope (roof, perimeter walls, foundation, and slab) assessment and the report is due this month. The report is expected to highlight at least two deficiencies: water intrusion along the foundation of the GSCC portion of the facility and water intrusion through the entire exterior perimeter block walls. If the report is

consistent with the Physical Plant's assessment, corrective work will be performed during the summer of 2014 and is forecasted to cost \$179,850. JSU and GSCC will share the cost equally.

Coliseum HVAC Improvements

Dr. Meehan said that a contract was awarded to Metro D Construction of Talladega for a construction cost of \$2,219,000 plus design fees. Construction will commence on May 5th and be completed by August 15th. The project will provide a new heating and cooling HVAC system for the entire coliseum with the exception of the pool area.

Daugette Hall / Computer Center

Dr. Meehan said that Whorton Engineering is designing a new HVAC system for a section of the Computer Center in Daugette Hall. The design is 90% complete and we expect to receive bids in 4 weeks. Construction of the project is planned for summer 2014 with total costs of \$92,819.

Softball Field Locker Room and Dugouts

Dr. Meehan reported that this project, constructed by Hale Building Company and designed by Bill Whittaker, is substantially complete, and the facilities were open for the first home softball game. Only minor punch list items remain. Final design and construction costs are \$488,706. The project included two sunken dugouts, locker room, shower room, washing facilities, and storage.

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.

II. University Update

A. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Dr. Meehan told the Board that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges completed its on-site review on April 10th. Dr. Nuria Cuevas, staff liaison for JSU, and the On-Site visiting team arrived on campus on April 7th in preparation of our reaffirmation of accreditation. Dr. Louise Clark and Dr. Alicia Simmons, Co-Chairs of the SACS Compliance Certification Committee, and Dr. Rebecca Turner, JSU's SACSCOC liaison, did a masterful job in preparing everyone for our reaffirmation. Ms. Gena Christopher and our QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) Committee did an excellent job in presenting our plan. During the visit our reaffirmation team members met with members of the Board where they were interviewed and questioned about the self-study, the QEP, and the reaffirmation process. Dr. Meehan said he wished to thank everyone for the best review we have had in the last four cycles (forty years). He stated that we look forward to being reaffirmed in December 2014.

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Dr. Meehan recognized Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and stated that she had some people to introduce who would be giving a presentation about JSU's Applied Forensics Program and what we are doing to help law enforcement in rural communities and how this new program will be a wonderful advantage for our students. Dr. Turner introduced Dr. Rick Davis, Department Head of Criminal Justice, to explain how the Department of Applied Forensics connects with our academic programs. Dr. Davis stated that the Department of Applied Forensics was established in conjunction with surrounding counties in order to provide services to agencies that lost their lab when the state closed its facility on JSU's campus in 2011. He introduced Mr. Mark Hopwood, who gave a PowerPoint presentation of how the lab works and the technology it uses to assist with crime scene investigations and how it helps develop programs to train students who are majoring in the field of forensics. Etowah County Sheriff Todd Entrekin, who attended the Board meeting, thanked JSU for the assistance JSU is giving to law enforcement in the field of forensics. Dr. Meehan thanked Mr. Hopwood for helping bring this forensics program to JSU and for the assistance it is giving our students.

Athletics

Dr. Meehan recognized Mr. Warren Koegel, Director of Athletics, to give a brief update on athletics. Mr. Koegel stated that the first spring football practice was just completed. He believes the team is ahead of where they were at this time last year and looks forward to a great season. He stated that approximately 3,000 people attended the spring game on April 12th at the JSU Stadium. Mr. Koegel invited the Board to attend the JSU vs. Michigan State game in East Lansing on August 29th. He provided a flyer in his report which explains a package that is offered by R & R Travel and encouraged them to let him know if they would like to participate in the trip. Mr. Koegel told the Board that a bus will be chartered for the trip to the Chattanooga game on September 6th if any of them would like to attend. Information is available on the Athletic Department website or by calling the Ticket Office. He said that the team is rated in the Top 10 in preseason polls.

Mr. Koegel told the Board that a new Head Volleyball Coach has been hired. He is Terry Gamble from McNeese State. Mr. Koegel is very excited to have him on board and believes he will be great for the team.

Mr. Koegel reported that all sixteen sports are above the NCAA's minimum requirement for Academic Progress Rate. They are all well into the 950 range and six sports had a score of 1,000.

Mr. Koegel stated that women's golf is in the OVC Championship, Rifle finished 7th in the nation, with Coach Frost winning the Coach of the Year award, and Men's

Tennis won the OVC Championship. Coach Bailey also received the OVC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year award.

Mr. Koegel's complete Athletic Department report was placed under Tab 5 of the Trustees binder for further review.

Dr. Meehan distributed copies of the 2012-13 Audit prepared by the Department Examiners of Public Accounts and the 2012-13 NCAA Audit.

University Advancement

Dr. Meehan recognized Dr. Charles Lewis to give an update on University Advancement. Dr. Lewis said that 9.5 million dollars has been raised for the Capital Campaign. 1.9 million dollars of this amount is in-kind gifts through the i3 Core Grant. He announced that Mr. Randy and Mrs. Debra Jones have agreed to be co-chairs of the Campaign and thanked Mr. Jones for their participation. He also thanked Mr. Thomas Dedrick for his \$30,000 gift to scholarships. Dr. Lewis thanked Mrs. Gale Main for agreeing to host an event for area high school counselors at her home in Montgomery on April 29th at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Lewis' full report was placed under Tab 5 of the Trustees binder.

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. Daugette, Aye
Mr. Thomas Dedrick, Aye
Senator Vivan Davis Figures, Aye

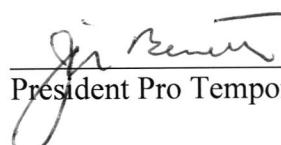
Mr. Randall Jones, Aye
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main, Aye
Mr. Randy Owen, Aye
Mr. Ronnie Smith, Aye

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. Bennett reported that there were no actions items to report.

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 21, 2014.


Secretary


President Pro Tempore

