

# JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY held its Spring Quarterly Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Meehan Hall on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, commencing at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

#### CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Presiding Chair Jones officially called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed all present. Trustee Brown opened the meeting with an invocation. Following the invocation, Senator Figures expressed her deep condolences. She invited everyone to join her for a moment of silence for the future Gamecock who tragically lost his life to gun violence. Our prayers and thoughts go out to the family and friends affected by this devasting loss.

#### **ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The Chairman directed Dr. Killingsworth, Secretary to the Board, to call the roll. The following members were present:

Randall E. Jones, Chairman Mr. Greg Brown Mr. Clarence Daugette, III Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Vice Chair Mr. Rusty Fuller Mr. Tony Ingram Mr. Drew Linn Mr. Randy Y. Owen Mr. Tony Smoke

The Trustees listed above constitute a quorum for conducting business. Trustee Main and Ex-officio member Governor Ivey were absent. Others present included First Lady Kristi Killingsworth, Dr. Wendy Stephens, Faculty Senate President; Ms. Jewelishia Johnson, Student Government Association (SGA) President; university faculty, staff, and students; members of the public, and media representatives.

Dr. Stephens, the outgoing Faculty Senate President, attended her last meeting and Chairman Jones expressed gratitude for her service on the Board during the past year. Dr. Richard Overton will be taking over as the new Faculty Senate President and will be attending the next Board of Trustees meeting in that capacity.

Chairman Jones also recognized and congratulated Ms. Johnson, the outgoing SGA President, for her service. Ms. Tierra Thatch was elected to serve as the new SGA President.

The newly installed SGA officers were introduced to the Board of Trustees: Kaitlyn Letson, Tanaya Fairbanks, Keonna Lovette and Demetrius Hardy. Chairman Jones wished them the best in their new positions!

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A draft copy of the April 18, 2023, minutes was provided to the Board members before the meeting. Chairman Jones called for a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.

# Upon a motion made by Trustee Daugette and seconded by Trustee Brown, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the April 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

#### THE BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(Proceedings of the Board committee meetings are in the respective committee meeting minutes, which are on file in the Office of the President.)

#### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 17, 2023. The Committee reviewed and approved **three action items** for recommendation to the full Board. Trustee Owen moved for their approval, and the following action items were unanimously adopted separately and collectively.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Transition the Family and Consumer Sciences Major with the Community Nutrition Concentration and the Dietetics Concentration from the College of Education & Professional Studies to the College of Health Professions and Wellness.
- 2. Merge the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Arts & Humanities with a name to be decided before July 2023.
- 3. Continue with test optional admissions at the undergraduate level until further notice.

Chairman Jones offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. Coming from the Academic Affairs Committee, the motion did not require a second.

## ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Fuller, Vice Chair of the Advancement Committee, reported that the Committee met and reviewed **three naming resolutions**, which the Committee approved. Trustee Fuller

moved for their approval by the full Board, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted separately and collectively.

#### LEAH TARVIN MEMORIAL BENCH RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** Ms. Leah Tarvin was a JSU student leader from Holly Pond, Alabama, pursuing a degree in Forensic Investigation.

WHEREAS, Ms. Leah Tarvin was dearly loved by fellow students, faculty and staff on campus.

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Leah Tarvin was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Investigation posthumously in December 2022.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that an outdoor memorial bench and tree shall henceforth be named in memory of Ms. Leah Tarvin.

Be it further resolved that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest sympathy to Ms. Tarvin's family.

This Resolution presented the 18th day of April 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D President Jacksonville State University

Mr. Randall E. Jones President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

#### JOHN Q. INGRAHAM MEMORIAL TREE RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the late Mr. John Q. Ingraham was a dear friend, loyal volunteer, and servant to JSU and the Little River Canyon Center for many years.

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Ingraham will be remembered for his dedication and love for the Little River Canyon National Preserve including his legacy for volunteering.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that a tree at the Little River Canyon Center in Mr. Ingraham's memory shall henceforth be named the "John Q. Ingraham Memorial Tree."

Be it further resolved, the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the family and friends of Mr. Ingraham for their generous support of the university.

This Resolution was presented the 18th day of April 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D President

Mr. Randall E. Jones President Pro Tempore of the

Jacksonville State University

#### ersity Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee SOUTHERN STATES BANK RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Southern States Bank is a local bank headquartered in Anniston and is the seventh largest bank in the state of Alabama.

**WHEREAS,** Southern States Bank President & CEO, Mr. Stephen Whatley, partnered with the JSU College of Business and Industry to develop an internship program to recruit top JSU students.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares to establish the Southern States Bank Internship Program.

Be it further resolved that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends sincere appreciation to Southern States Bank for their generous support of the university.

This Resolution was presented on 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

. Ill

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. President Jacksonville State University

. Randall E. Jones

President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

#### **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

Trustee Ingram, Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that the Committee held its meeting but did not have any action items to present to the full Board. Instead, Mr. Greg Seitz, Athletic Director, summarized the meeting's discussion. Mr. Ingram encouraged everyone to read the Athletic report submitted by Mr. Seitz, which provides detailed information about the Athletic Department's accomplishments.

## AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Brown, Chair of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee, reported that the Committee met and discussed the internal audit activities. He stated that the Committee had no action items to bring before the Board. However, the Committee did approve two important charters: the Internal Audit Charter and the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee Charter. Trustee Brown indicated that these items are for information only and does not require Board approval.

#### **BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee convened and discussed **three action items**, which the Committee unanimously approved. Trustee Smoke moved for their approval, and the following action items were unanimously adopted, separately and collectively.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

## 1. <u>Angle Hall (Bibb Graves) Windows with Federal Emergency Management Agency</u> (FEMA).

**WHEREAS**, Jacksonville State University is, or will be, entering into an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace windows in Angle Hall (formerly known as Bibb Graves Hall);

**WHEREAS**, the agreement will apply to all assistance funds provided by or through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of the presidentially declared disaster occurring within the State of Alabama;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for this Board to designate a representative, or representatives, to act on Jacksonville State's behalf in connection with actions taken pursuant to the Agreement;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby appoint President Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. and Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Arlitha Williams-Harmon as the two individuals that have the authority to act on behalf of Jacksonville State pursuant to the Agreement.

This Resolution was presented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. President Jacksonville State University

Mr. Randall E. Jones President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

## 2. <u>Selection and Negotiation of the JSU Health Center Provider (RFP#23-03-31-005)</u>

WHEREAS, JSU desires for its students, faculty, and staff to have excellent healthcare services;

WHEREAS, it is critical that such services be delivered by a high-quality provider in a costeffective manner;

WHEREAS, to facilitate the selection of the best healthcare provider, it is in the best interest of JSU to negotiate an agreement that will benefit all students, faculty, and staff.

**WHEREAS**, Jacksonville State University has received multiple proposals from potential healthcare providers through RFP#23-03-31-005.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby authorize the Executive Committee and the President of the University to have the authority to select the most responsive bidder and negotiate the contract agreement on behalf of Jacksonville State University.

This Resolution was presented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. President Jacksonville State University

Randall E. Jones

President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

#### 3. FY24 Tuition & Fee Proposal

#### MOTION for Adoption of FY2024 Tuition & Fees

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has the authority to approve tuition and fees,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees recognizes the increasingly important role that revenue from tuition and fees plays in ensuring educational excellence and innovation, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining access to and affordability of its high quality programs.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the FY24 student tuition and fees as presented.

This Resolution was presented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. President Jacksonville State University

Mr. Randall E. Jones President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

# Chairman Jones offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. Coming from the Building and Finance Committee, the motion did not require a second.

Dr. Harmon announced that the O&M (Operations & Maintenance) Budget would be presented at the July Board meeting specifically to review the appropriations received from the state. This information will help make informed decisions regarding the operating budget.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In President Killingsworth's report, he expressed gratitude to everyone who participated and attended the Campus Transformation Ceremony on Monday. The President also extended his thanks to all partners involved in the construction projects currently underway on campus. He acknowledged that the coming months might be chaotic due to the three ongoing projects in addition to the three existing projects. However, he emphasized that this period of construction signifies growth and aligns with the university's vision for the campus's future. President Killingsworth thanked Chairman Jones for participating in the Glen Huie Eminent Scholar Speaker Series earlier this year. Dr. Ronnie Clayton said the students found the conversation intriguing and enjoyed the interaction. The President extended an offer to all Trustees interested in speaking to an individual class. He stated that arrangements can be made if they choose to do so.

Dr. David Thornton was acknowledged by President Killingsworth as being named a **2023-2024 Fulbright Scholar** by the US Department of State. He will be a visiting professor at Graz University of Technology in Graz, Austria this fall. Fulbright Scholar Awards are prestigious and highly competitive fellowships that offer exceptional opportunities for scholars to teach and conduct research abroad. Dr. Thornton will teach two graduate courses in game development and virtual reality, collaborating with game lab growth. He is the ninth Fulbright Scholar from JSU in the history of our institution.

President Killingsworth announced that the JSU Student Symposium was one of the largest events of its kind. This event allows students to showcase their work in a professional setting to classmates, faculty, and staff. In recognition of his outstanding work, Conner Gayda was selected as one of the award winners whose work President Killingsworth chose to present.

Conner's presentation was on **Typography**, **Baseball**, and the Fight for Civil Rights. He discussed his design of the "Satchel" font and explained his inspiration behind it. He said that he drew inspiration from the Birmingham Black Barons, a renowned baseball team, and their legendary pitcher, Satchel Paige. The font design is a typographic tribute to Negro League baseball and the fight against racial equality in Alabama. Conner believes that creating new typefaces is an ongoing endeavor because there is always more work to be done.

JSU ID cards were distributed to the Trustees. While the card may not grant access to every building on campus, it will allow entry into the cafeteria and the recreation center.

President Killingsworth reminded the Trustees to contact Dr. Messer of their intentions regarding the trip to France.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Jones made a motion to enter into an Executive Session for one hour to 1) discuss the general reputation and character of certain individuals and 2) to discuss with the University counsel legal ramifications and options on certain matters as outlined in Alabama Code 36-25A-7(a)(3). A written opinion from counsel was secured for the University that such an exception applies to the planned discussion. Trustee Daugette seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

The Chairman called for a Roll Call vote. President Killingsworth called roll for voting to approve the executive session. The following people voted:

Randall E. Jones, Chairman	Yes
Mr. Greg Brown	Yes
Mr. Clarence Daugette, III	Yes
Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Vice-chair	Yes
Mr. Rusty Fuller	Yes
Mr. Tony Ingram	Yes
Mr. Drew Linn	Yes
Mr. Randy Y. Owen	Yes
Mr. Tony Smoke	Yes

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED**

With no other business to discuss, the executive session adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

#### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon returning from the Executive Session with a quorum present, Chairman Jones reported that the Board had **two resolutions** for Board approval. Trustee Fuller moved for their approval, and the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, separately and collectively.

### **RESOLUTION ADOPTING AMENDED BYLAWS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees bylaws were last amended in 2017;

WHEREAS, in consultation with Counsel for the Board of Trustees and the University and in recognition of guidance that the University receives from its accrediting body, the Board has identified several revisions to the bylaws it wishes to make;

**WHEREAS**, the amended bylaws will guide this Board in fulfilling its mission, supporting the University, and providing guidance on all matters within its statutory authority;

Be it resolved that the amended bylaws attached hereto are hereby adopted and approved.

This Resolution was presented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of this day on April 18th, 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. President Jacksonville State University

Mr. Randall E. Jones President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

**WHEREAS**, this Board has always prohibited members from voting on matters in which they have a personal or professional conflict of interest;

WHEREAS, each member of this Board recognizes their fiduciary duty to the University and is committed to fulfilling his or her duties as a trustee with the best interest of the University in mind;

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes conflict of interest prevention can be enhanced by adoption of a formal conflict of interest policy which defines conflicts of interest, outlining procedures for disclosing conflicts of interest and resolving conflict of interest issues;

**WHEREAS**, the new conflict of interest policy will be a resource for new board members and assist them in understanding their roles and responsibilities as trustees for the University;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved; the Board hereby adopts the Conflict-of-Interest Policy attached to this Resolution.

This Resolution was presented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. President Jacksonville State University

Mr. Randall E. Jones President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at Meehan Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor.

There was no further business to come before the Board of Trustees. By consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D President Jacksonville State University

Mr. Randall E. Jones

President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Executive Committee

Catherine H. Chappell Recording Secretary