



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

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Annual Meeting on the 11th Floor of Houston Cole Library on **October 17, 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 Smoke opened the meeting with an invocation.

**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  
 Senator Vivian D. Figures, Vice Chair  
 Mr. Clarence Dauge, III (Via Teams)  
 Mr. Rusty Fuller  
 Mr. Tony Ingram  
 Mr. Drew Linn  
 Mrs. Gale S. Main  
 Mr. Randy Y. Owen  
 Mr. Tony Smoke

The Trustees listed above constitute a quorum for conducting business. Trustee Brown and Ex-officio member Governor Ivey were absent. Others present included Mrs. Kristi Killingsworth, Dr. Reginald Overton, Faculty Senate President; Ms. Tierra Thatch, Student Government Association (SGA) President; university faculty, staff, and students; members of the public; and media representatives.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A draft of the July 18, 2023, minutes were previously distributed for consideration. Chairman Jones called for a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. **Upon a motion made by Trustee Owen and seconded by Trustee Ingram, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 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 October 16, 2023. He asked Dr. Christie Shelton, Committee Liaison, for a summary of the meeting. Dr. Shelton reported that the Committee had an excellent meeting. Several presentations were made within the Academic Affairs department. The presentations included updates from the Center for Best Practices in Law Enforcement and the Center for Applied Forensics. Dr. Shelton mentioned the exciting news of receiving a \$1.5 million grant, named the Campus Grant, designated to support Pell-eligible students with childcare. **There were no action items.**

### ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Main, Chair of the Advancement Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 16, 2023, and considered seven resolutions. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Board approve all action items. **Trustee Linn moved for their approval by the full Board and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted separately and collectively.**

#### RESOLUTION #653

#### **Dr. Bill Scroggins Professor of Finance Classroom**

**Whereas**, Mr. Cary Guffey, '97 of Birmingham, Alabama, is a proud MBA alumnus of Jacksonville State University and former student of Dr. Bill Scroggins.

**Whereas**, Mr. Cary Guffey, and his wife, Mrs. Michelle Guffey have generously supported the University and the College of Business and Industry through their contributions throughout the years.

**Therefore**, be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that a classroom in Merrill Hall shall henceforth be named the Dr. Bill Scroggins Professor of Finance Classroom in honor of Dr. Bill Scroggins for the tremendous impact he had on Mr. Guffey's career.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the Guffey family for their generous support of the university.

This Resolution was presented the 17th day of October 2023.

  
Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

  
Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

**RESOLUTION #654**

**The Randy and Julieann Hurst Classroom**

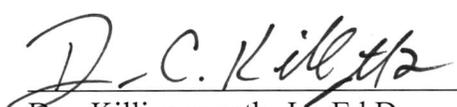
**Whereas**, Mr. Randy Hurst, '74 and '77 of Dothan, Alabama is a proud alumnus of Jacksonville State University.

**Whereas**, Mr. Randy Hurst and his wife, Mrs. Julieann Hurst have generously supported the University and the College of Business and Industry's Merrill Hall through their contributions.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares Classroom 200, in Merrill Hall, shall henceforth be The Randy and Julieann Hurst Classroom.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the Hurst family for their generous support of the university.

**This Resolution** presented the 17th day of October 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

**RESOLUTION #655**

**The Family Savings Credit Union Financial Wellness Program**

**Whereas**, Family Savings Credit Union, is a local credit union headquartered in Gadsden, Alabama with eleven branches located in Alabama and Georgia.

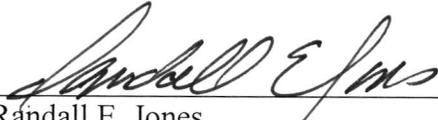
**Whereas**, Family Savings Credit Union President & CEO, Mr. Danny Varnon partnered with JSU's Financial Aid Office to provide additional resources, education, and guidance for financial success for JSU students.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares to establish the Family Savings Credit Union Financial Wellness Program.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends sincere appreciation to Family Savings Credit Union for their generous support of the university.

**This Resolution** presented the 17th day of October 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

**RESOLUTION #656**

**The Sandra Stone Day of Reading**

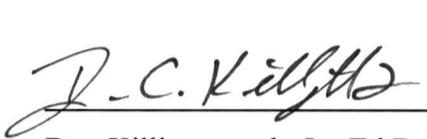
**Whereas**, the Stone family, including the late Dr. Sandra Dale McCurdy Stone '69, '73, and '80 and her husband of 54 years, Col. William "Bill" Stone '69, '77; with her three children, Dr. Staci Stone, Vice Provost, Jacksonville State University, Steven Stone '00 and '11, and Jeff Stone have been long time supporters of Jacksonville State University for many years and have pride in their university.

**Whereas**, the Stone family has generously supported the university through their contributions and support throughout the years.

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares a day in October, The Sandra Stone Day of Reading, and shall henceforth be named and celebrated in her memory. The Sandra Stone Day of Reading will support literacy efforts at the preschool level, and is an appropriate tribute to Dr. Sandra Stone, a literacy expert with published research about the use of books in daycare settings. For this annual event, volunteers will read to children in daycare facilities in this region.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the Stone family for their generous support of the university.

**This resolution** presented the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.



Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President



Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

**RESOLUTION #657**

**The Pi Kappa Phi Lobby**

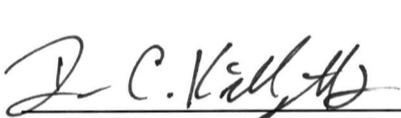
**Whereas,** the Delta Epsilon chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity was chartered at Jacksonville State University fifty-one years ago with Randy Owen serving as a charter member; and

**Whereas,** the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity generously supported the University through their contributions to the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts.

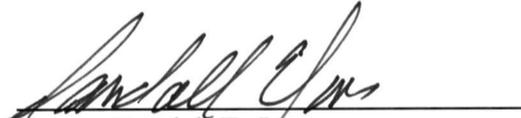
**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that the lobby of the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts, shall henceforth be named the Pi Kappa Phi Lobby in honor of the friendship and fraternal bonds shared between Randy Owen and his fraternity brothers.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity for their generous support of the university.

**This Resolution** presented the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.



Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President



Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

*A fundraising committee, comprised of members from the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, was established with the aim of supporting the Randy Owen Performing Arts Center (ROC). The committee successfully raised over \$1 million. Dr. Killingsworth presented certificates to acknowledge their generous contributions.*

**RESOLUTION #658**

**The Greg and Nilda Kernion/New Leaf Marketing Executive Dining Room.**

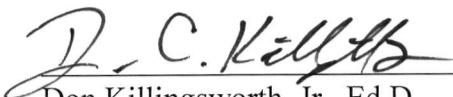
**Whereas,** Mr. Greg Kernion, '90, '93, and his wife, Dr. Nelda Kernion, '96 of Annison, Alabama, are proud alumni of Jacksonville State University.

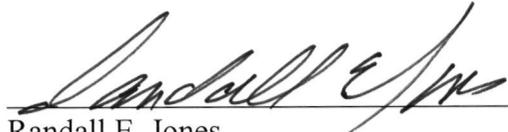
**Whereas,** Mr. Kernion is the owner of New Leaf Marketing and has generously supported the University throughout the years.

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that the Executive Dining Room in the new dining hall be named the Greg and Nilda Kernion/New Leaf Marketing Executive Dining Room.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the Kernion family for their generous support of the university.

**This Resolution** presented the 17th day of October 2023.

  
Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

  
Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

**RESOLUTION # 659**

**Caring Foundation**

**Whereas**, the Caring Foundation was established in 1990 by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama to serve as our corporate charitable foundation for philanthropic needs within the state.

**Whereas**, the Caring Foundation is focused on improving the health and well-being of Alabamians by investing in charitable organizations across the state.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University would like to recognize that the Equipment and Technology for the JSU Doctor of Nursing Practice program has been generously funded through BCBS Caring Foundation.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to the Caring Foundation for their generous support of the university.

**This Resolution** presented the 17th day of October 2023.

  
Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

  
Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

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

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

Trustee Ingram, Chair of the Athletic Committee provided an update on the committee's meeting held on October 16, 2023. The committee did not have any actionable items to present for consideration. However, during the meeting, five JSU students were honored with the **Life Savings Award**. A fan collapsed on the sidewalk at the Stadium. The athletic training staff promptly responded to the emergency, and the fan regained consciousness.

Mr. Greg Seitz reported that Bowling became the University's 18<sup>th</sup> NCA sponsored sport in which the Board approved last year. Shannon O'Keefe is the head coach. According to Mr. Seitz, she is one of the most successful collegiate female coaches in the country and one of the top bowlers in the world.

## AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee convened on October 16, 2023. Trustee Smoke reported that the committee had no actionable items to bring before the Board for consideration. They discussed the 2023-2024 Internal Audit Plan for the University, and the Committee approved the plan. Mr. Skip Clark, Committee Liaison, provided the Committee with an update on work performance, highlighting key findings from the most recent quarter and presenting the current quarter's Audit Plan.

## BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee convened on October 16, 2023, and considered four **action items**, which the Committee unanimously approved. **Trustee Smoke moved for their approval by the Board, and the following action items were unanimously adopted, separately and collectively.**

### ACTION ITEMS:

1. International Application Deposit – Effective Fall 2024, the request is for Student Accounts to assess a \$100 non-refundable enrollment deposit to admitted international students' accounts. Deposits of students who do not enroll will be moved to the International Student Program fee account. Additionally, there is a request to increase the International Undergraduate Application Fee from \$35 to \$50 effective Spring 2024.
2. Joint Public Safety Facilities – Approval for the President to negotiate an agreement with the Calhoun County Commission and the City of Jacksonville to construct a Joint Public Safety Facility.
3. Capital Outlay Requests: Crow and Dixon Halls –Approval of the multi-year HVAC systems and community restrooms and the approval of Tennis Courts resurfacing.
4. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted Budget Proposal.

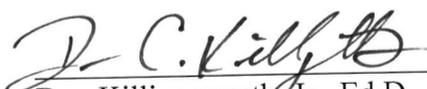
### FY 2024 Budget

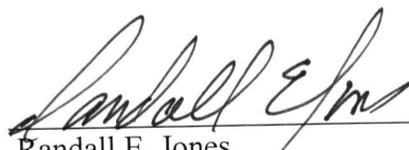
**Whereas**, the Board of Trustees has the authority to approve the annual budget, and

**Whereas**, the Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining a balanced budget:

**Be it resolved** that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposed FY24 annual budget as presented.

**This Resolution** presented the 17th day of October 2023.

  
 Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
 President

  
 Randall E. Jones  
 President Pro Tempore of the  
 Jacksonville State University 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.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Killingsworth began his report by expressing gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support. He extended appreciation to the SGA president and students for initiating a scholarship fund aimed at helping first-generation college students, highlighting the admirable commitment of students working for fellow students.

Highlighting JSU's regional leadership, President Killingsworth shared insights from his recent participation in the 33rd Class of Leadership Alabama. During this retreat, he emphasized the wealth of learning from distinguished members across the state, encompassing historical perspectives from Ed Bridges, visits to notable sites like the Equal Justice Institute Legacy Museum and the Judge Frank Johnson Courtroom, and discussions with seven mayors. These mayors reiterated the pivotal role universities play in addressing diverse challenges faced by municipalities, reflecting JSU's active involvement in assisting the city, county, and state. For instance, JSU's engagement in initiatives like DeKalb County Reimagined showcases the university's commitment to driving education, innovation, and economic growth in collaboration with the community.

President Killingsworth also shed light on statewide efforts to retain talented graduates through initiatives like Governor Ivey's Retain Alabama program and JSU's active participation in the Student Retention Council.

Regarding the ROTC program, positive feedback from the US Commander at Fort Knox assured JSU about the program's future. Collaborative efforts involving alumni, administration, and governmental support were acknowledged in preventing its closure.

The Presidential Red Jacket Council unanimously voted to support an annual scholarship in honor of Dr. Sandra Stone.

In October, the Special Programs Office collaborated with the American Democracy Project and the Judge Frank Johnson Institute to organize a free speech forum. Dr. Lori Owens, Dean of Honors College, and Special Programs, along with Mr. Thomas Raines, the Executive Director of the Judge Frank Johnson Institute, coordinated the event. The panel featured notable figures like Luther Strange, former US Senator and Alabama Attorney General; Brian Fair, a professor at the Alabama School of Law and board member of the Southern Poverty Law Center; and Dr. Alan Lincoln, an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Alabama. This forum was live-streamed and received positive feedback from both attendees and online viewers. Future sessions might be considered to continue this impactful dialogue.

JSU's E-sports team had a promising start in their debut season despite initial setbacks. After losses at the beginning, the team, under the coaching of Mr. Vincent Houston, secured victories against George Mason University, DePaul University, and Stony Brook. Mr. Houston and his team played a crucial coaching role, with Mr. Houston also designing and constructing the

competition area in the Longleaf Studios building. At the conclusion of the fall semester, the team achieved a balanced record of three wins and three losses.

President Killingsworth expressed pride in JSU's transformative infrastructure changes and financial progress, noting a significant increase in cash on hand within ten months. Anticipating future growth through partnerships and expanded enrollment options, he thanked the campus community for their collective efforts in strengthening the university's position.

The report concluded with gratitude to everyone involved in JSU's progress, acknowledging the collaborative effort that doubled the university's daily cash balance and expressing confidence in future growth and success.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:50 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. **The motion was seconded by Trustee Owen and approved unanimously.**

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. Clarence Daugette, III	Yes
Senator Vivian D. Figures	Yes
Mr. Rusty Fuller	Yes
Mr. Tony Ingram	Yes
Mr. Drew Linn	Yes
Mrs. Gale S. Main	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 11:15 a.m.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon returning from the Executive Session with a quorum present, Chairman Jones reported that the Board had several action items for approval.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

Trustee Ingram made a motion to approve the following Resolution for Board approval. Trustee Main seconded the motion by acclamation. **Motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Annual Meeting 2023**

**Resolved,** that the Board of Trustees adopts Roberts Rules of Order, Latest Edition, to apply to and govern all debate at Board of Trustees and Committee Meetings.

**Resolved,** that the Board of Trustees will defer formal action on any amendments to the Board's Bylaws until the January meeting.

Resolved, that the following appointments are made:

**President Pro Tempore and Board Chair: Randall E. Jones**

**Vice-Chair: Senator Vivian Davis Figures**

The Chairs of the Board of Trustees Committees will remain unchanged.

**EVALUATION OF PRESIDENT**

Trustee Smoke made a motion to authorize Chairman Jones on behalf of the Board of Trustees to discuss the annual evaluation of the President and to authorize any financial adjustments as needed. The motion was seconded by Senator Figures. The motion passed unanimously with all members in favor, and none opposed.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

Senator Figures made a motion to accept the new JSU Organizational Chart as submitted by President Killingsworth. Trustee Owen seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

**2024 MEETING DATES**

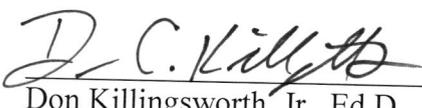
Chairman Jones presented a draft of the 2024 Board meeting dates beginning January 8th and 9<sup>th</sup>. Other proposed meeting dates were April 15-16, July 15-16, and October 14-15.

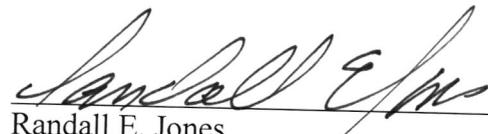
Trustee Main moved that the 2024 meeting dates be accepted. All were in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Killingsworth announced that Dr. Alan Medders is the new Vice President of Philanthropy.

There was no further business to come before the Board of Trustees. By consent, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Meehan Hall on January 9, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall E. Jones  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees and  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

*Catherine H. Chappell,  
Recording Secretary*