



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Annual Meeting at the Little River Canyon Center on October 15, 2024, at 9 am **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 everyone 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 Daugeette, III
Mr. Rusty Fuller
Mr. Tony Ingram
Mr. Drew Linn
Mrs. Gale S. Main
Mr. Randy 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 university faculty, staff, students, members of the public, and media representatives. Chairman Jones acknowledged Dr. Heidi Dempsey, President of the Faculty Senate, Ms. Kaitlyn Letson, President of the Student Government Association (SGA), and Chief Michael Barton, President of the Staff Council.

Mr. Pete Conroy provided a historical overview of the Canyon Center, noting its recognition as an international attraction. He highlighted the facility's substantial economic impact, stating it has generated nearly \$500 million in economic output since 2016. Mr. Conroy also discussed current efforts to support hurricane evacuees, mentioning that the Canyon Center and state parks have been opened to accommodate them. He further emphasized the ongoing

partnership between Jacksonville State University and the National Park Service in the facility's development and operations.

Dr. Heidi Dempsey provided an update on Faculty Senate activities since July. She highlighted the faculty's support for freshmen during the freshman convocation and noted the faculty's participation in the ongoing compensation study. She announced the establishment of the Faculty Salary Committee as a standing committee. Dr. Dempsey also discussed recent updates to the faculty handbook and the creation of centralized web pages to improve access to faculty resources. She emphasized efforts to boost faculty participation in committees and enhance the transparency of committee-related information.

Kaitlyn Letson updated recent SGA activities, including support for freshmen and student organizations through various events and funding allocations. She detailed "Welcome Week" activities featuring a pool party, ice cream social, movie night, and the "Spirit on the Mountain Street" concert. Kaitlyn also highlighted Homecoming events, including a cookout, mental health fair, Gamecock Carnival, and a tailgate. She announced that the university made history this year when, for the first time, a set of twins was crowned as Homecoming King and Queen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Jones noted that drafts of **July 16, 2024, and September 27, 2024**, Executive Committee meeting minutes had previously been circulated through Diligent for review. He asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as distributed. **Hearing none, the minutes were unanimously approved.**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented a report from their October 14, 2024, meeting. The Committee brought forward **three action items** for the Board's consideration. Trustee Owen made the motion to approve the following:

1. The immediate discontinuation of the MSED Reading Specialist Program.
2. Discontinuing undergraduate certification programs in Trail Science and drone piloting.
3. The approval of McClellan as an Off-Campus Instructional Site (OCIS) for submission to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

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

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Main, Chair of the Advancement Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 14, 2024. She called upon Dr. Alan Medders to recap the meeting. Dr. Medders reported on the university's record year of giving as of this point. The third quarter closed with \$11.8 million in donations, with an additional \$12 million in gifts received that will be accounted for in

October. He expressed excitement about this achievement and provided an update on ongoing efforts to improve processes within philanthropic services and the JSU Foundation.

The Committee reviewed **two resolutions and unanimously approved both. Trustee Main made a motion to adopt the following resolutions:**

RESOLUTION # 674

Robert Douglas “Bob” Germany

Whereas the family members, Mrs. Sally Martin Germany, Wayne Kramer, and Linda Kramer, along with many other family and friends, wish to honor and memorialize Robert Douglas “Bob” Germany as a loyal Jacksonville State University alumnus who graduated with the Class of 1975.

Whereas Robert Douglas “Bob” Germany was an outstanding football player as a member of the Sylacauga High School football team, the Jax State football team, and, who ultimately went on to play with the Kansas City Chiefs football team in the NFL.

Whereas these family members and friends made a generous gift to Jacksonville State University, wishing to honor and memorialize a location on the campus of JSU, to be used by the Jax State football team, coaches, staff and visitors as an appropriate way to honor and memorialize the loyalty and dedication that Mr. Germany had as a Gamecock football player while attending Jacksonville State University.

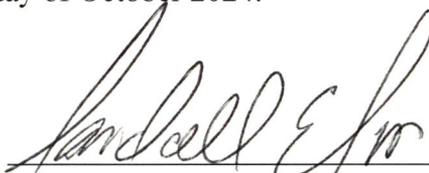
Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that the football player entryway in the Loring and Debbie White Football Complex be named **The Robert Douglas “Bob” Germany Player Entryway** in honor and memory of this man known as, “a gentle giant who brought light to this world.”

Be it further resolved that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Sally Martin Germany, sister Linda Kramer, brother-in-law Wayne Kramer, and all of the family and friends of Mr. Bob Germany who contributed generously this gift to Jacksonville State University.

This Resolution was presented on the 15th day of October 2024.



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

RESOLUTION # 675

J.D. Brown and Jean Brown

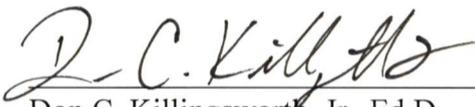
Whereas, the Brown family, Gregory D. Brown '79, Jeffrey A. Brown '82, Lori Brown James '89, and Laura Brown Phillips '89, have been long time supporters of Jacksonville State University for many years and have pride in their university.

Whereas the Brown family has generously supported the University through their contributions and support throughout the years, establishes **The J.D. Brown and Jean Brown Endowed Scholarship Fund**, in loving memory of their parents.

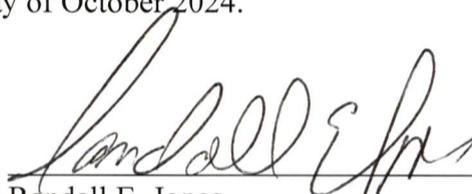
Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares and shall henceforth honor and memorialize J.D. Brown and Jean Brown by awarding the scholarship as specified to Jacksonville State University students to aid in the recruiting and/or retention of students who have graduated from Weaver High School, is renewable until a student completes their undergraduate degree, and remains in good standing with the university, as an appropriate tribute to J.D. Brown and Jean Brown.

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

This resolution was presented on the 15th day of October 2024.



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

Coming from the Advancement Committee, the motion did not require a second.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Trustee Ingram, Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that they met on October 14, 2024, and had a productive meeting with **one action item**. Trustee Ingram motioned to approve the yearly **Conference USA Governing Board Certification Form for the Academic Year 2024-2025**. **All were in favor, and None Opposed it. The motion carried unanimously.**

Coming from the Athletic Committee, the motion it did not require a second.

AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Vice Chair of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee, reported on the October 14, 2024, meeting. He noted that Mr. Clark presented an update on recent work, key findings, and the audit plan for the current quarter. The Committee approved the 2024-2025 Internal Audit Plan. (The Board does not have to approve the Audit Plan).

Ms. Sabrina Brown was introduced as the Internal Auditor. There were **no action items** to report.

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee had a very informative meeting on October 14, 2024. The meeting included several fiscal updates and ongoing project updates. The Committee also heard the first report from the Staff Council president, Mr. Michael Barton.

The Committee reviewed and unanimously approved **two action items**. Trustee Smoke presented these items for the Board's consideration, and both were adopted unanimously, individually and collectively.

1. Approval to increase the \$100 non-refundable enrollment deposit charged to admitted international students so that the increase is phased in and is not more than \$500.
2. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget.

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

THE BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Killingsworth began his report by welcoming all attendees. He then introduced LTC Eddie Walker, the newly appointed professor of Military Science. LTC Walker provided an overview of the ROTC program, highlighting that the university is required to commission 12 officers annually. He assured that the current status is on track, with 15 officers in the program exceeding the minimum requirement.

On September 17, 2024 the university hosted the Alabama Supreme Court as part of its Constitution Day activities. Special thanks were extended to Dr. Lori Owens, who leads our American Democracy Project, Ms. Leigha Cauthen from External Affairs, former Judge Sam Monk, and Chief Michael Barton. Their expertise and efforts were instrumental in coordinating this event.

The Supreme Court was initially scheduled to visit in 2018 with Justice Main's assistance. However, the tornado disrupted those plans, delaying the visit until this year. The event featured a packed room of students who had the unique opportunity to witness the Court in action during oral arguments, which were conducted with precision and efficiency. President Killingsworth thanked all who were involved.

As this was the annual meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed items required for compliance with SACSCOC Principle 4.2(a), which mandates that trustees formally approve the institution's mission statement. This process also adheres to JSU Planning Policy 101.13, which originated from the President's Cabinet and was directed to the Board of Trustees.

A timeline of related actions was presented:

- The Strategic Plan framework was adopted in January 2022.
- The full Strategic Plan was approved in January 2023.
- The previous Strategic Plan was closed out in July 2023.
- The Mission Statement was reviewed again in January 2024, as required for annual adoption and biannual review.

As of spring 2024, 55% compliance with reporting on strategies and 29% of strategic initiatives have met their intended targets. The institution identified a need to narrow its focus in certain areas based on these results. Academic Affairs led this effort by reducing its strategies from over 50 to six major strategies. Progress tracking for the Strategic Plan will be monitored by the Assessment Committee, with all parties submitting narrative reports.

As part of this update, the Mission Statement was presented for approval: *"Jacksonville State University, a learning-centered community, provides distinctive educational, cultural, and societal experiences to prepare students to be competent, ethical professionals and engaged, responsible global citizens."*

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the Mission Statement. After a motion and a second were made, the Mission Statement was unanimously approved.

An update on federal appropriations was provided, and appreciation was expressed to the External Affairs team and representatives in Washington, D.C. for their efforts. Over the past two years, the institution has received \$5.1 million in federal funding, with additional funds anticipated to support engineering, nursing, and law enforcement programs.

Dr. Mark Sciuchetti, the Presidential Fellow for Open Educational Resources (OER), presented a report on the use and impact of OER at Jacksonville State University (JSU). OER materials are free resources that replace costly textbooks and course materials and help ease the financial burden on students, who spend around \$970 per semester on textbooks. Between Fall 2019 and 2024, JSU students spent \$1.2 million on textbooks for ten general education courses, highlighting a significant financial strain.

Since 2020, five geography courses at JSU have fully adopted OER, saving 4,108 students over \$408,000. Expanded OER use is expected to save students an additional \$139,000 in textbook costs during Spring 2025 alone. A projected five-year savings of \$1.26 million across ten key courses demonstrates the significant financial impact of expanding OER adoption across the university.

President Killingsworth highlighted the importance of reducing student costs by using free educational resources (OER) whenever possible. While acknowledging that not all courses can switch to OER, he encouraged departments, especially those offering general education classes, to explore this option.

Dr. Sciuchetti is leading the OER effort, starting with the geography department and expanding to other areas. President Killingsworth recognized the difficulty of changing from familiar textbooks but emphasized putting students first.

President Killingsworth concluded his report by thanking Dr. Sciuchetti for his work and looks forward to a report on the initiative's progress at the end of his fellowship next year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Jones made a motion to enter into an Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes to 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 Fuller and approved unanimously.**

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

Randall E. Jones, Chairman	Yes
Mr. Clarence Daugeette, 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 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

The executive session adjourned at 11:37 a.m. It was concluded with no other business to discuss.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Trustee Linn presented the following Resolution for Board approval.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Meeting 2024

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.

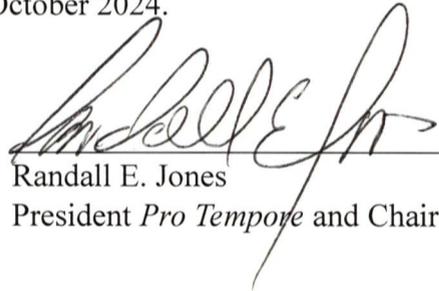
Resolved that the following appointments are made:

President Pro Tempore and Board Chair	Randall E. Jones
Vice-Chair	Senator Vivian Davis Figures

The Chairman makes the following committee appointments.

Chair, Athletic Committee	Tony L. Ingram
Chair, Building and Finance Committee	Tony Smoke
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee	Randy Owen
Chair, Advancement Committee	Gale Saxon Main
Chair, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee	Greg Brown

This Resolution was presented on the 15th day of October 2024.



 Randall E. Jones
 President *Pro Tempore* and Chairman

ATTEST:



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

Trustee Drew Linn motioned to adopt the resolution to re-elect Chairman Randall E. Jones to serve another term as President Pro Tempore (Chair) of the Board of Trustees, re-elect Senator Vivian Davis Figures to serve another term as Vice-Chair, and approve committee appointments. Mr. Rusty Fuller seconded the motion, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved it.

EVALUATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Chairman Jones announced that the Board of Trustees is pleased with President Killingsworth's performance in his leadership role. The evaluation process for the President was completed successfully, resulting in excellent scores. Chairman Jones emphasized that President Killingsworth met and exceeded the established performance criteria. The Board's assessment reflects their confidence in the President's ability to guide the institution effectively.

Trustee Smoke moved that Chairman Jones negotiate President Killingsworth's compensation for 2024-2025. Trustee Main seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Two changes are proposed to the current organizational chart:

1. Title Change: Director of Athletics - Proposed new title: **Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics** - Note: This change was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in September.
2. Title Change: Senior Vice President and Provost - Proposed new title: **Executive Vice President and Provost**

Trustee Smoke moved to ratify these changes to the organizational chart. Senator Figures seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

2025 MEETING DATES

Chairman Jones proposed the Board of Trustees meeting dates for 2025. The draft includes four two-day sessions:

- Winter Session: January 27-28
- Spring Session: April 14-15
- Summer Session: July 14-15
- Fall Session: October 20-21

Trustee Fuller motioned to approve the proposed 2025 meeting dates as presented. Trustee Main seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Trustee Figures motioned that attorney Charlie Waldrep draft a resolution for Mrs. Lilly Ledbetter, present it at the next Board of Trustees meeting in January, and present it to the Ledbetter family. **All were in favor. The motion carried.**

Trustee Daugette moved to adopt the following resolution, which Trustee Main seconded. All were in favor, and None Opposed. The motion carried.

Whereas it has been recommended to the Board of Trustees that Jacksonville State University purchase the following property, which are various lots located on Mountain Street adjacent to the university.

Therefore, Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., president, is authorized to conduct any necessary actions to complete this purchase.

This resolution was presented on the 15th day of October 2024.



 Don C. 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Trustees had no further business. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next meeting will be on **January 28, 2025, on the 5th Floor at Meehan Hall.**



Don C. 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