



**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 **April 15, 2025, 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 Brown 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  
 Mr. Greg Brown  
 Mr. Rusty Fuller  
 Mr. Drew Linn  
 Mr. Randy Owen  
 Mr. Tony Smoke  
 Mr. Loring White

The Trustees listed above constitute a quorum for conducting business. Trustees Daugette, Figures, Ingram, Main, Orange, and Ex-officio member Governor Ivey were absent. Others present included Mrs. Kristi Killingsworth, First Lady; university faculty, staff, and students; members of the public; and media representatives. Chairman Jones acknowledged Dr. Heidi Dempsey, President of the Faculty Senate, and Ms. Kaitlyn Letson, the outgoing Student Government Association President (SGA). Ms. Letson introduced the new SGA president, Ms. Ayanah Scott, and the incoming officers of the SGA.

Chairman Jones welcomed two new trustees to the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees: Mrs. Cheryl L. Bevelle-Orange and Mr. J. Loring White, both appointed by Governor Ivey.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Jones noted that a draft of the **January 28, 2025**, meeting minutes had been previously 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.**

Additionally, a motion was made to amend the **April 18, 2023**, minutes to correctly state that the **January 10, 2023**, Board of Trustees meeting minutes were approved. **The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee convened on April 14, 2025, and had four action items. Due to a lack of quorum, the Committee could not approve the action items. **Trustee Owen moved for the Board's approval of the four action items. The motion was properly seconded. The Board voted on each item separately and unanimously and approved all four action items.**

##### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Approval of Master of Science in Forensic Investigation.
2. Approval of the Center for Best Practices in Rural Behavioral Health.
3. Approval to Reaffirm the University's Mission Statement.
4. Jacksonville State will accept both Alabama diploma options A and B under the existing admissions framework.

#### **ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Trustee Owen, Vice Chair of the Advancement Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 14, 2025. Due to the lack of a quorum, the Committee was unable to vote on the action items. Trustee Owen moved for the Board's approval of ALL action items. The motion was properly seconded. Each action item was voted on separately and approved unanimously.

##### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Approval of the new JAX STATE car tag design.
2. Approval of eight naming resolutions
  - The Charlie Grisham Family Coaches Meeting Room
  - The Hester and C.S. Smith Equipment Room
  - The Drakken "Tru" Graham Memorial Bench
  - The Ken and Jenny Howell Dance Studio and Rehearsal Hall
  - The Dr. Rebecca O. Turner Recording Classroom
  - The Madison and Sydney Wright Endowed Student Travel Fund
  - The John Mayfield Memorial Endowed Scholarship
  - The Dr. Fred Gant Endowed Scholarship

**RESOLUTION 692**

**Whereas Glynn L. Grisham '80**, is a distinguished alumnus and proud supporter of Jacksonville State University.

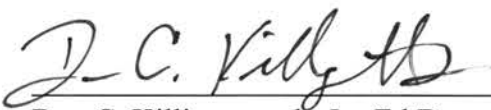
**Whereas Glynn L. Grisham** made a generous gift to Jacksonville State University, requesting to name the Coaches Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, location in the Loring and Debbie White Football Operations Complex, in honor of his father, former Jax State graduate, Gamecock Football Player, and Carrollton High School Football Coach, Charles Louis "Charlie" Grisham '56.

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby declares that the Coaches Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, located in the Loring and Debbie White Football Operations Complex shall henceforth be named **The Charlie Grisham Family Coaches Meeting Room**, as a testament to the Grisham Family's support, dedication and deep appreciation of Jacksonville State University athletics programs.

**Furthermore, be it resolved**, that in acknowledgement and in recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize Glynn L. Grisham in accordance with the University's Giving Societies and he shall be entitled to all benefits thereof.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its profound thanks and gratitude to the Glynn Grisham Family for their generous contribution to Jacksonville State University.

**This Resolution** presented the 15th day of April 2025.

  
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

**RESOLUTION 693**

**Whereas Claudette Smith '72**, is a distinguished alumnae and proud supporter of Jacksonville State University.

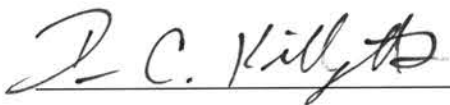
**Whereas Claudette Smith** made a generous gift to Jacksonville State University, requesting to name the Equipment Room location in the Loring and Debbie White Football Operations Complex in honor of her parents, Hester Ledbetter Smith '37 and Claudous Smith.

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby declares that the Equipment Room located in the Loring and Debbie White Football Operations Complex shall henceforth be named **The Hester and C.S. Smith Equipment Room** as a testament to the Smith Family's support, dedication and deep appreciation of Jacksonville State University athletics programs.

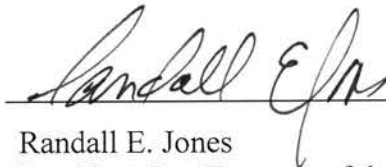
**Furthermore, be it resolved** that in acknowledgment and recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize Claudette Smith in accordance with the University's Giving Societies, and she shall be entitled to all benefits thereof.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its profound thanks and gratitude to Smith for her generous contribution to Jacksonville State University.

**This Resolution** presented the 15th day of April 2025.



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

**RESOLUTION 694**

**Whereas** Cadet Drakken “Tru” Graham, while a senior at Sand Rock High School, was awarded a prestigious 4-year Army ROTC Scholarship for exemplifying the core characteristics of a “scholar, athlete, and leader” to attend Jacksonville State University. Cadet Graham served with distinction in various leadership roles, including squad leader and platoon sergeant. On the Friday before his untimely passing, he was honored as “The New Ranger Team Captain” and was set to lead the Jax State Ranger Team in competition at Fort Moore in January 2025.

**Whereas** during his time in the Gamecock Battalion, Cadet Graham earned numerous accolades, including “The Military Order of the World Wars Award (Top Military Science 1 Award)”, “The Army ROTC Dean’s List Award”, “The Ranger Challenge Award”, and “The Color Guard Award”. Additionally, Cadet Graham was a proud graduate of the United States Army Airborne School.

**Furthermore**, Cadet Drakken “Tru” Graham dedicated himself wholeheartedly to his service and was deeply cherished by his family, friends, faculty, and fellow ROTC Gamecock Battalion classmates. In honor of his unwavering commitment and the profound impact he had on those around him, family, friends, and Jacksonville State University ROTC members request that a memorial bench be placed outside Rowe Hall as a fitting tribute to Cadet Graham, a man who embodied the values of honor, discipline, and sacrifice.

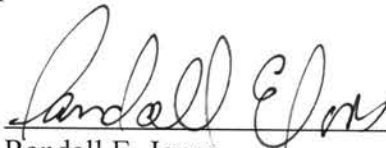
**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that an outdoor memorial bench and tree shall henceforth be named in memory of Cadet Drakken “Tru” Graham.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest sympathy to Cadet Drakken “Tru” Graham’s family, friends, and ROTC comrades.

This resolution presented this 15th day of April 2025.



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

**RESOLUTION 695**

**Whereas Kenneth A. Howell '72 and Jenny Howell** have demonstrated their loyalty and admiration for Jacksonville State University by supporting over 35 initiatives over the past 20 years, generously contributing substantial gifts to the University.


**Whereas Kenneth and Jenny Howell** have made another generous gift to Jacksonville State University, wishing to name a space in the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts in honor of their love for the arts, especially dancing, to be used by students, faculty, staff, performers and others for education, rehearsal, and performance purposes.

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that the Dance Studio & Rehearsal Hall in the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts shall be henceforth named **The Ken and Jenny Howell Dance Studio and Rehearsal Hall** in recognition of their love and support for the University's performing arts programs.

**Furthermore, be it resolved**, as acknowledgment and recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize Ken and Jenny Howell in accordance with the University's Giving Societies and shall be entitled to all benefits of the societies.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its profound thanks and gratitude to Kenneth and Jenny Howell who contributed generously to this gift to Jacksonville State University.

**This Resolution** presented the 15th day of April 2025.

  
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



**RESOLUTION 696**

**Whereas Dr. Rebecca O. Turner** has demonstrated her loyalty and admiration for Jacksonville State University by generously supporting it over the past 34 years, contributing substantial gifts to the university.

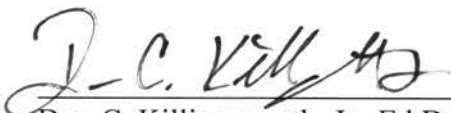
**Whereas Dr. Rebecca O. Turner** has made another generous gift to Jacksonville State University, wishing to name a space in the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts in honor of her love for the arts, to be used by students, faculty, staff, performers and others for education, rehearsal, recording and performance purposes.

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University declares that the Recording Classroom, located in the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts, shall be henceforth named **The Rebecca O. Turner Recording Classroom** in recognition of her love and support for the University's performing arts programs.,

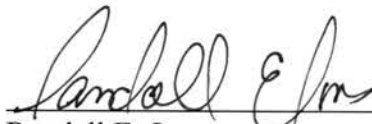
**Furthermore, be it resolved**, as acknowledgement and in recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize Dr. Rebecca O. Turner in accordance with the University's Giving Societies and shall be entitled to all benefits of society.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its profound thanks and gratitude to Dr. Rebecca O. Turner, who contributed generously to this gift to Jacksonville State University.

**This Resolution** presented the 15th day of April 2025.



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

**RESOLUTION 697**

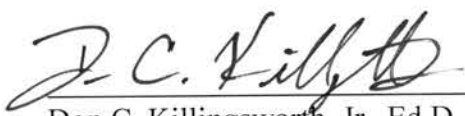
**Whereas Madison Wright '16 and Sydney Jones Wright '17 & '20** are esteemed alumni and dedicated supporters of Jacksonville State University, who wish to provide critical financial assistance to Jacksonville State University students, who, encounter unexpected financial challenges for travel expenses in attending academic related events, as a gesture of gratitude for the successes that they have achieved through their education at Jacksonville State University.

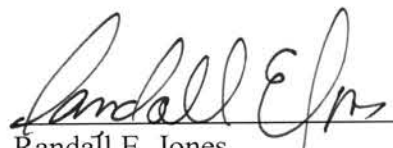
**Whereas Madison Wright and Sydney Wright** have generously endowed Jacksonville State University with a significant gift to establish **The Madison and Sydney Wright Endowed Student Travel Fund** to assist full-time students with demonstrated financial need in supplementing their available resources and the cost of attending the education related event by providing financial travel support to an out of area event.

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby declares and shall henceforth honor Madison and Sydney Wright by awarding the financial aid for travel expenses as specified to Jacksonville State University students as a fitting tribute to the Wrights' commitment and generosity. As acknowledgement and in recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize the Wrights in accordance with the University's Giving Societies and shall be entitled to all benefits of the societies.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to Madison and Sydney Wright for their unwavering support and contributions in support of the university.

**This resolution** presented the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

  
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



**RESOLUTION 698**

**Whereas The Mayfield Family** is a loyal supporter of Jacksonville State University and wishes to honor the memory of Mr. John Mayfield and promote the education of deserving students enrolled at Jacksonville State University.

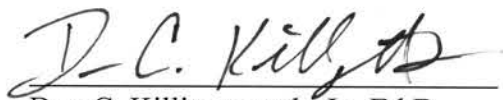
**Whereas The Mayfield Family** has given a generous gift to Jacksonville State University to establish **The John Mayfield Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund** to support future students by providing financial assistance to those pursuing a degree, thereby helping them achieve their academic and professional goals.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby declares that The John Mayfield Memorial Endowed Scholarship shall be awarded in honor of The Mayfield Family to future Jacksonville State University students, with a preference given to an undergraduate who is a member of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, having a minimum GPA of 2.7/4.0. This serves as an appropriate tribute to the Mayfield Family, who wish to honor the memory of Mr. John Mayfield.

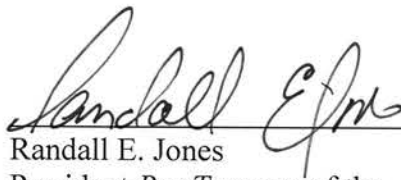
**Furthermore, be it resolved**, that in acknowledgement and in recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize the Mayfield Family in accordance with the University's Giving Societies and they shall be entitled to all benefits of the societies.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to Vivian Pollard Mason for her generous support of the university.

**This resolution** presented the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.



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

**RESOLUTION 699**

**Whereas Dr. Jason C. Junkins and Dr. Thomas Kevin Lackey** are loyal supporters of Jacksonville State University and wish to honor Dr. Fred Gant with an endowed scholarship to promote the education of deserving students enrolled at Jacksonville State University.


**Whereas Dr. Jason C. Junkins and Dr. Thomas Keving Lackey** have given a generous gift to Jacksonville State University to establish **the Dr. Fred Gant Endowed Scholarship Fund** to support future students by providing financial assistance to those pursuing a degree, thereby helping them achieve their academic and professional goals.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby declares that the Dr. Fred Gant Endowed Scholarship shall be awarded to a full-time, junior or senior-level student at Jacksonville State University, financially need-based, enrolled in the Pre-Health Profession program. This serves as an appropriate tribute to Dr. Junkins and Dr. Lackey in honoring Dr. Fred Gant with the Dr. Fred Gant Endowed Scholarship.

**Furthermore, be it resolved**, that in acknowledgement and in recognition of this significant gift, the University will recognize Dr. Jason C. Junkins and Dr. Thomas Kevin Lackey in accordance with the University's Giving Societies and they shall be entitled to all benefits of the societies.

**Be it further resolved** that the entire Jacksonville State University family extends its deepest gratitude to Vivian Pollard Mason for her generous support of the university.

**This resolution** presented the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

  
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

## ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Trustee Fuller, Vice Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that they met on April 14, 2025, and held an informative meeting that included **one action item**. Trustee Fuller moved that the Board of Trustees approve the discontinuation of Jacksonville State University's sponsorship of Beach Volleyball as an intercollegiate varsity sport, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

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

## AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Brown, Chair of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 14, 2025, but **did not** have a quorum. He noted that there was **one action item** that needed attention. **Trustee Brown motioned to accept the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. This motion was seconded by Trustee Fuller and unanimously approved by the Board.**

## BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee convened on April 14, 2025, and considered **three action items**, which the Committee unanimously approved. **Trustee Smoke moved for the Board's approval, and the following action items were unanimously adopted, separately and collectively.**

## ACTION ITEMS:

### 1. Proposed FY25 Tuition & Fees

#### MOTION for Adoption of FY2025 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 FY25 student tuition and fees as presented.

**This resolution** presented the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

  
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

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

## 2. FY25 Proposed Budget


### MOTION for adoption of FY2025 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 FY25 annual budgets as presented.

**This resolution** presented the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

  
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

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

3. Trustee Smoke made a motion to authorize the president of Jacksonville State University to execute an agreement to purchase property on behalf of the university. The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by the Board

## 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 thanked the Trustees for coming to the meeting today to ensure the action items were taken care of.

- Quick Facts Brochures from Institutional Research and Assessment were distributed to the Trustees.
- Governor Jim Folsom Jr.'s documentary was shown at two well-attended events: one on campus and another at the Hoover Public Library. The documentary is available on YouTube and focuses on Folsom's role in bringing Mercedes to Alabama. Mr. Waldrep was thanked for sponsoring these events.
- The Lilly Ledbetter film will be shown exclusively at the Stone Center on Thursday at 6:00 PM, coinciding with other campus events, including the Annual Shrimp Boil.

### Key Highlights from Mr. Houston's Report:

- **NSF Cybersecurity Infrastructure Grant:** JSU is collaborating with Georgia Tech University on this National Science Foundation grant, which benefits smaller institutions with broadband infrastructure challenges.
- **10 Gigabit Internet Circuit:** The university has received a new research-dedicated internet circuit that will be operational soon, at no cost for two years, providing both technological benefits and cost savings.
- **Financial Benefit:** Currently spending approximately \$72,000 annually on internet services; the grant will alleviate this cost for the upcoming years.
- **Disaster Recovery Improvements:** Following lessons from the 2018 tornado, JSU is building a secondary "hot site" at South Complex that can quickly become operational if needed, expected to be completed by year-end.
- **Cybersecurity Measures:** The university conducts regular security assessments (approximately every other year) with internal auditors and is planning an evaluation with a third-party to identify potential vulnerabilities.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Summer projects include upgrading the wireless controller (the "brains" of the wireless network) and the telephone system.
- **IT Support Statistics:** The IT department processed over 2,000 support tickets for the first quarter of the year, providing remote and on-site assistance.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:09 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:

Mr. Randall E. Jones, Chairman	Yes
Mr. Greg Brown	Yes
Mr. Rusty Fuller	Yes
Mr. Drew Linn	Yes
Mr. Randy Owen	Yes
Mr. Tony Smoke	Yes
Mr. Loring White	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 10:00 am with no other business to discuss.

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon returning from the executive session, President Killingsworth called for a roll call.

Present:

Mr. Randall E. Jones

Mr. Rusty Fuller

Mr. Drew Linn

Mr. Tony Smoke

Mr. Loring White

Mrs. Gale Main (via Zoom)

After determining that a quorum was not present following the Executive Session, Chairman Jones announced that the meeting was adjourned.

The Board of Trustees had no further business. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm. The next meeting will be on July 14-15, 2025, on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Meehan Hall, Jacksonville, AL.



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