

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University held an Executive Committee meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama, Tuesday, May 27, 2025, in the Executive Conference Room in Angle Hall.

Call to Order: Mr. Randall E. Jones, Chairman of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order in the Executive Conference Room of Angle Hall at 9:00 am CDT.

Roll Call: Board Secretary President Killingsworth called the roll, and the following members of the Committee were present: Chairman Randall Jones and Trustee Randy Owen. Trustees Tony Smoke and Greg Brown attended via Zoom. Senator Vivian Davis Figures was unable to attend the meeting. The secretary announced that a quorum was present. Chairman Jones decided to proceed with the meeting to discuss the proposal for Dual Enrollment and clarify the Graduate Studies General Fee. The proposal will be presented to the full board for approval in July.

FY 25-26 Dual Enrollment Tuition and Fees

President Killingsworth announced an opportunity to reevaluate the institution's dual enrollment tuition rates. He asked the Director of Dual Enrollment and the Vice Provost to present their findings and recommendations to the committee regarding the proposed direction for these rates. Dr. Harmon was also present to discuss the financial implications of any potential changes to the current tuition structure. After a detailed presentation by the Associate Vice Provost and Director of Dual Enrollment about other schools offering \$33 per credit hour dual enrollment rates, the committee discussed the need to lower Jacksonville State University's current dual enrollment tuition rate from \$168 per credit hour to remain competitive. The review showed that JSU could break even at the \$33 rate while helping the university grow dual enrollment numbers and increase the number of dual enrollment students who later enroll as freshmen.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to adopt a dual enrollment tuition rate of \$33 per credit hour for both in-state and out-of-state students, effective Fall 2025. The motion passed unanimously. This recommendation will be brought to the full board for final approval.

Graduate Studies General University Fee Clarification

A clarification was needed regarding the Graduate University Fee (GUF) from the July 2024 board meeting. When the board adopted the GUF for graduate students, the information was

presented as a flat rate, but it should have been presented as an hourly rate to match how graduate students are charged, effective Fall 2025. The board previously approved this change in charging method in July 2024.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to clarify that the graduate student GUF be applied in an hourly format rather than as a flat fee. The motion was approved.

Barnes & Noble First Day 2.0

Dr. Harmon presented plans to expand the existing First Day 2.0 program campus wide. Currently, students in selected classes can have textbooks pre-selected and either mailed or picked up at the bookstore. The expansion would extend this service to all JSU courses, except online courses that provide free materials.

Students would access all required materials on the first day of classes at a rate of \$23 per credit hour, based on a total of 12 credit hours. The program maintains faculty freedom to select textbooks while integrating materials into the Canvas system. Research shows that students with access to first-day materials perform better academically.

The program is expected to generate \$486,000 in annual commissions for the university, helping offset potential bad debt. Most Alabama universities and community colleges have similar programs, making this expansion necessary to stay competitive.

This represents an administrative change to an existing program and does not require board action.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Jones declared the Executive Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm and stated that the next Board of Trustees meeting would be held on the 5th Floor of Meehan Hall on July 15, 2025.

Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D. Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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