



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 in Ft Payne, Alabama, on **October 21, 2025, commencing at 9:00 a.m. CDT.**

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

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

Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Vice Chair
 Trustee Greg Brown
 Trustee Clarence W. Dauge, III
 Trustee Rusty Fuller
 Trustee Tony Ingram
 Trustee Drew Linn
 Trustee Gale Saxon Main
 Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange
 Trustee Randy Owen
 Trustee Tony Smoke
 Trustee Loring White

The Trustees listed above constitute a quorum for conducting business. Chairman Randall Jones and ex officio member Governor Ivey were absent. Others present included university faculty, staff, students, members of the public, and media representatives. Vice-Chair Figures acknowledged Dr. Heidi Dempsey, President of the Faculty Senate, and Ms. Ayanah Scott, President of the Student Government Association (SGA). Mr. Michael Barton, Chair of the Staff Council, was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Figures noted that the draft minutes from the **July 15, 2025**, meeting had been circulated through Diligent for review and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the

minutes. **Hearing none, a motion was made and unanimously approved.**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 20, 2025. He called on Dr. Shelton to provide an update to the Board. She noted that the committee had several action items that required the full Board's approval.

Action Items:

1. Challenger Learning Center: Vice-Chair Figures made a motion that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University approve the resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama, providing for Jacksonville State University's commitments under the agreement and the formal naming of the facility as the Jacksonville State University STEAM Institute – Home of the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama. **All were in Favor. None Opposed—Motion Passes.**

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

2. Mission Statement Review: The Committee reviewed the current mission statement in consideration of new program proposals on the agenda. There were no questions or concerns regarding the current Mission Statement.

3. Doctor of Arts in English: Vice-Chair Figures made a motion to approve the implementation of Doctor of Arts in English in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, pending all required internal and external approvals. **All were in Favor. None Opposed—Motion Passes.**

Vice-Chair Figures offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. **The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.**

4. Entrepreneurship Curriculum: Vice-Chair Figures made a motion to approve the implementation of the Bachelor's in Science in Entrepreneurship in the College of Business and Industry, pending all required internal and external approvals. **All were in Favor. None Opposed—Motion Passes.**

Vice-Chair Figures offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. **The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.**

5. Minor and Concentration Name Changes: Vice-Chair Figures made a motion to approve the grouping of earning minors and micro credentials in concentration name changes with an undergraduate minor in speech-language therapy, and a micro-credential in entrepreneurship and concentration name changes from exercise science and wellness to a clinical concentration of pre health professions and in exercise science wellness human performance concentration changed to fitness and wellness concentration. **All were in Favor. None Opposed—Motion Passes.**

Vice-Chair Figures offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. **The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.**

6. To approve the Reaffirmation of Centers: Vice-Chair Figures made a motion to approve the reaffirmation of university centers for 2025–2026; review to occur annually in October. **All were in Favor. None Opposed—Motion Passes.**

Vice-Chair Figures 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 20, 2025. She then asked Dr. Medders to provide an update.

Dr. Medders shared progress on fundraising efforts, including the current total for the comprehensive campaign, increased alumni engagement, and the expansion of the State of the University events from two to six, with Nashville and Huntsville remaining on the schedule. He also noted recent staff additions, with formal introductions planned for the January board meeting. He reported that Mr. Casey commended the staff for achieving the enrollment goal of 10,339 students, and Ms. Wiggins presented enrollment data by category, emphasizing regional impact and spring 2026 projections. He added that Mr. Seitz reported on the donor-funded indoor practice center.

The Committee approved all action items for Board consideration. Since the motion originated from the Advancement Committee, **it does not require a second.** Trustee Main then moved that the Resolutions presented be adopted by the full Board, both as a group and individually. **All Resolutions were approved unanimously after the vote.**

Action Items:

1. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming the Creative Co-op inside the Randy Owens Performing Arts Center as **“The BMI Creative Co-op Suite”** in recognition of BMI Nashville’s generous support of Jacksonville State University. The resolution also expressed the University’s gratitude to BMI Nashville. **Action:** Adopted unanimously
2. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming the Serenity Garden located behind Mason Hall as **“A Space for Grace Serenity Garden”** in recognition of Rick (’84) and Leigh Ann Lundy of Cedartown, GA, for their generous support of Jacksonville State University. **Action:** Adopted unanimously.
3. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming the Player’s Lounge on the first floor of the Loring and Debbie White Football Complex as **“The Curt ’76 and Lavonne Mitchell Player’s Lounge”** in recognition of Curt (’76) and Lavonne Mitchell of Vonore, Tennessee, for their loyal support of Jacksonville State University. The resolution also expressed the University’s gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell. **Action:** Adopted unanimously

4. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming the Lieutenant Office inside the Colonel Clarence Daugette, Jr., Suite in Rowe Hall as “**The Major General James David Bryan ('70) Professor of Military Science Office**” in recognition of MG Bryan’s loyal support and contributions to Jacksonville State University. **Action:** Adopted unanimously.
5. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Future Business Leaders Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified junior or senior undergraduate students majoring in Finance or Management. Two scholarships will be awarded annually to students with a minimum GPA of 2.50. The resolution also acknowledged Richard Helms for his significant gift and recognized him in accordance with the University’s Giving Societies.
6. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved establishing “**The Sigma Nu Marching Southerner Annual Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial help for academically qualified first-generation undergraduate or graduate students who are members of the Marching Southerners and the Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Scholarships will be awarded each year through a competitive process to students with at least a 2.70 GPA and a FAFSA on file, with priority given to undergraduates. The resolution also recognized Richard Mayfield for his generous gift and acknowledged him according to the University’s Giving Societies.
7. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Sigma Nu Computer Science Annual Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified undergraduate or graduate students who are Computer Science majors and members of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Scholarships will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to students with a minimum 2.70 aggregate GPA and a FAFSA on file, with preference given to undergraduate students. The resolution also acknowledged Christine Mayfield for her significant gift and recognized her in accordance with the University’s Giving Societies.
8. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Sigma Nu Finance Major Annual Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified undergraduate or graduate students who are Finance majors and members of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Scholarships will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to students with a minimum 2.70 aggregate GPA and a FAFSA on file, with preference given to undergraduate students. The resolution also acknowledged Richard Mayfield for his significant gift and recognized him in accordance with the University’s Giving Societies.
9. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Sigma Nu First Generation Student Annual Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified first-generation undergraduate or graduate students who are members of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Scholarships will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to students with a minimum 2.70 GPA and a FAFSA on file, with preference given to undergraduate students. The resolution also acknowledged

Richard Mayfield for his significant gift and recognized him in accordance with the University's Giving Societies.

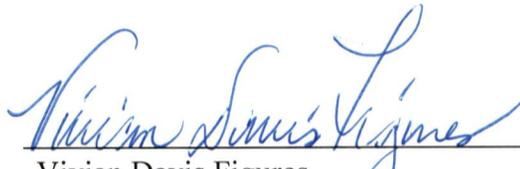
- 10. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Patricia and Stephen Daigle Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified undergraduate students from military families, including those with a parent, guardian, or spouse who has served or is serving in the U.S. military. Scholarships will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to students with a minimum of 2.50 GPA. The resolution also acknowledged Patricia and Stephen Daigle for their significant gift and recognized them in accordance with the University's Giving Societies.
- 11. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Monica Nabers Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified students majoring in Communication with a minimum 2.50 GPA. The resolution also acknowledged Bethany Dryden for her significant gift and recognized her in accordance with the University's Giving Societies.
- 12. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Rayburn, Scruggs, Spearman and Ingram Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to students in good standing with Jacksonville State University. The resolution also acknowledged Maxine Ingram for her significant gift and recognized her in accordance with the University's Giving Societies.
- 13. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The James Macon Kirksey Endowed Scholarship in Memory of His Parents: James I. Kirksey and Lora M. Kirksey**” to provide financial assistance to academically qualified full-time junior, senior, or graduate students pursuing degrees in scientific fields such as Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, and emerging sciences, with preference given to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity members in good standing. Students pursuing professional degrees (e.g., Nursing) are excluded. Recipients must demonstrate academic aptitude (minimum 2.25 GPA), creativity, and practical innovation. The resolution also expressed the University's sincere gratitude to the late Mr. James Macon Kirksey for his enduring generosity and commitment to student success.
- 14. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Dr. Janet L. Bavonese Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to future Jacksonville State University students majoring in Education, Social Work, Psychology, or Criminal Justice. The scholarship will be awarded for one academic year. The resolution also acknowledged Dr. Bavonese for her generous estate gift and recognized her in accordance with the University's Giving Societies.
- 15. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Jim '70 and Melinda Farrell Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to Jacksonville State University students who demonstrate financial need, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5, and are majoring in Political Science, Education, or Business, in accordance with university guidelines. The resolution also acknowledged Jim and Melinda Farrell for their generous gift and recognized them in accordance with the University's Giving Societies.

- 16. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution establishing “**The Mike and Kimberly Reynolds Endowed Scholarship Fund**” to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students majoring in Kinesiology – Health & Physical Education who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.75, are in good standing with the University, and preferably from a rural area. The resolution also acknowledged Mike '09 and Kimberly Reynolds for their generous gift and recognized them in accordance with the University’s Giving Societies.
- 17. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming an outdoor memorial bench located in the Dr. Alice Cusimano Gardens outside Hammond Hall as “**The Kenneth James Reighard Honorary Memorial Bench**” in honor and memory of Mr. Kenneth James Reighard, an alumnus of Jacksonville State University. The resolution also expressed the University’s deepest sympathy to Mr. Reighard’s family, friends, and associates.

The above Resolutions were presented and adopted on October 21, 2025.



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



Vivian Davis Figures
Vice Chair of the Jacksonville State University
Board of Trustees

(Full text of the resolutions are on file in the Office of the President.)

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Trustee Ingram, Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that the committee met on October 20, 2025. He noted that Mr. Seitz presented a comprehensive report on the Athletic Division. The committee approved **one action item** to be forwarded to the Board for consideration: the Conference USA Certification Form, an annual compliance document required of member universities to verify adherence to NCAA and Conference USA regulations. Trustee Ingram made a motion to approve the Conference USA Form. **All were in favor, None-opposed. Motion passes.**

Vice-Chair Figures 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 held a productive discussion on October 20, 2025. Several reports were presented regarding the activities of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance team. **The 2025-2026 Internal Audit Plan was approved by the Committee.**

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met on October 20, 2025, and has several action items requiring Board approval: **Trustee Smoke moved for the Board's approval, and the following action items were unanimously approved, separately and collectively.**

Action Items:

1. Parental Leave Policy – Approval of the policy as presented, effective January 1, 2026.

The Board approved and adopted a Paid Parental Leave Policy, establishing a new benefit for all employees welcoming a child through birth, adoption, surrogacy, or foster placement.

2. Block Rate Grandfathered Students – Removal of the exemption for students under the block tuition rate.

The Board approved the removal of the block rate exemption, initially implemented in Fall 2021, for students enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours (28) and those not registered (110). These students will now be charged the prevailing per-credit-hour tuition rate in future semesters.

3. Approval of Modification of Course Fees/Programs:

MOTION for Adoption of FY2025 Proposed Fee Change

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes the increasingly important role that revenue from fees that it 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 fees as presented.

4. 2026 Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program (TAP) Grant:

Jacksonville State University authorizes the President (or designee) to sign all necessary documents to use TAP Program funds for pedestrian safety improvements along State Route 21 and State Route 204, and to submit all required information and forms for completing the improvements and participating in the TAP Program. *(Full text of the resolution is on file in the President's Office).*

5. Freestanding Emergency Room: A motion was made that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University approve the Resolution authorizing the execution of a letter of Intent with DSF Development Company and Health Care Authority of the City of Anniston for the proposed construction of a single-story building to house a Freestanding Emergency Room and the JSU Health Center. **All were in favor, non-opposed. Motion passes.**

6. Foundation Asset Donation: Approval of the item as presented. *(Full list of assets is on file in the President's Office).*

7. **Approval for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Adopted Budget** – Adoption of the annual budget as presented.

MOTION for Adoption of FY26 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 FY26 annual budget as presented.

Vice-Chair Figures 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 recognizing the Little River Canyon Center staff for their hard work and contributions in hosting the Board of Trustees meeting. He announced that Chairman Jones was absent as he is in Washington, D.C., preparing for his presidential appointment to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

During the President's Report, several new department heads were introduced: Dr. Raina Kostova (English), Dr. Tammy Brown (Professional Counseling and Leadership), Dr. Teddi Joyce (Communication), Dr. Alicia Corts (Theater and Film), and Dr. Ragavanantham Shanmugam (Applied Engineering).

The President noted that department heads face the unique challenge of balancing administrative responsibilities with teaching duties and expressed appreciation for their dedication.

President Killingsworth announced that the university was recently ranked the **#1 employer headquartered in Alabama** by Forbes and seventh overall among all employers in the state. He emphasized that this recognition reflects the institution's commitment to creating a great workplace and is a testament to the dedication of faculty, staff, and leadership.

He provided an update on the strategic plan, themed **R.E.D. (Reach, Engage, Discover)**, noting that approximately **78% of the goals and objectives have been completed**, with progress continuing on the remaining items. Trustees were encouraged to review the **Fact Book**, which includes demographics, student majors, and other institutional data.

A major highlight of the report was the announcement that the **Marching Southerners will perform in the 2027 Rose Parade**, an event expected to reach **73 million global viewers**, including **45 million in the U.S.**, and **700,000 spectators** along the parade route. This appearance represents an estimated **\$10–\$15 million in publicity value** and will serve as a significant

branding opportunity for the university. Plans include taking **95% of the band (approximately 500 students)** at an estimated cost of **\$1.5 million**, with fundraising efforts underway and potential state support being explored.

Additionally, new band uniforms are being designed to align with the university's refreshed brand identity. The current uniforms are 11 years old, and the cost for 600 new uniforms for the band and color guard is projected at **\$600,000**, with the goal of having them ready for the Rose Parade.

President Killingsworth concluded by announcing the upcoming retirement of Dr. Kenneth G. Bodiford, Director of Bands, effective January 1, 2026, after 32 years of distinguished service. He praised Dr. Bodiford's leadership and lasting contributions to the band program and the University. Under his direction, the Marching Southerners grew from 120 to over 500 members, achieved international acclaim with performances in London, Hawaii, Rome, and Normandy, and earned the prestigious Sudler Trophy in 2022. In recognition of his legacy, Vice Chair Figures made a motion to **adopt the resolution naming the Rehearsal Hall in Mason Hall the Ken G. Bodiford Band Rehearsal Hall. The motion was properly seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.** *(Full text of the resolution is on file in the President's Office).*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:10 a.m., Vice Chair Figures 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.**

Vice Chair Figures called for a roll-call vote. President Killingsworth called for a roll call of voting to approve the executive session. The following people voted:

Trustee Vivian Davis Figures, Vice Chair	Yes
Trustee Greg Brown	Yes
Trustee Clarence W. Dauge, III	Yes
Trustee Rusty Fuller	Yes
Trustee Tony Ingram	Yes
Trustee Drew Linn	Yes
Trustee Gale Saxon Main	Yes
Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange	Yes
Trustee Randy Owen	Yes
Trustee Tony Smoke	Yes
Trustee Loring White	Yes

Vice Chair Figures reported a unanimous vote for the Executive Session and stated that the Board members would return to a public vote on any items that required action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED

The executive session adjourned at 11:00 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: Trustee Vivian Davis Figures, Trustee Greg Brown, Trustee Clarence W. Dauge, III, Trustee Rusty Fuller, Trustee Tony Ingram, Trustee Drew Linn, Trustee Gale Saxon Main, Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange, Trustee Randy Owen, Trustee Tony Smoke, and Trustee Loring White.

Vice-Chair Figures reported that the Board had **two action items** from the executive session to approve.

Action Items:

1. Trustee Dauge made a motion that the Board of Trustees adopt a Resolution authorizing the purchase of property located at 915 and 921 Francis Street West, Jacksonville, AL, and authorize the President to execute the purchase and sale agreement and complete all related due diligence and closing actions as set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement. Trustee Smoke seconded the motion. **The motion passes unanimously.**
2. **Evaluation of the President: Trustee Smoke made a motion** stating 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. Vice Chair Figures emphasized that President Killingsworth met and exceeded the established performance criteria. The Board's assessment reflects its confidence in the President's ability to guide the institution effectively. **Trustee Fuller seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Trustee Smoke moved that Chairman Jones negotiate President Killingsworth's compensation for 2025-2026. Trustee Main seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Trustees' Remarks on President Killingsworth's Leadership:

- Trustees thanked President Killingsworth for his leadership and positive impact on the university.
- Praised his ability to build trust, foster collaboration, and share a clear vision for the future.
- Noted his strong connection with students, alumni, faculty, and staff.
- Commended his approachable, lead-by-example style that has earned respect across campus.
- Expressed confidence in his leadership and optimism for the university's future.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

President Killingsworth made a motion to ratify the organizational chart. The institution's organizational chart was presented. The notable change would be to separate Enrollment Management and Student Affairs into two vice president positions, with approval to move Jessica Wiggins to the vice president of Enrollment Management. **Trustee Main seconded the motion, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved it.**

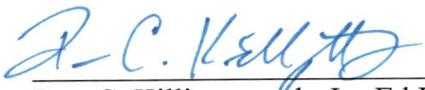
2026 MEETING DATES

Vice Chair Figures presented the proposed 2026 Board of Trustees meeting schedule, which includes four two-day sessions:

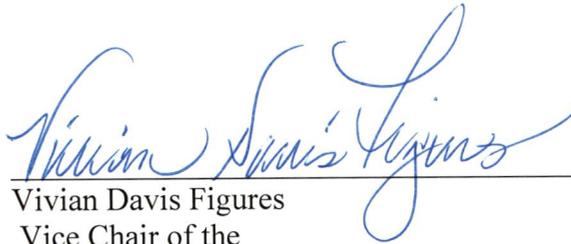
- Winter Session: January 12–13
- Spring Session: April 13–14
- Summer Session: July 13–14
- Fall Session: October 19–20

Trustee Fuller motioned to approve the proposed 2026 meeting dates as presented. Trustee Main seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees had no further business. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on **January 13, 2026, on the 5th floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama.**



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



Vivian Davis Figures
Vice Chair of the
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees

Catherine H. Chappell
Recording Secretary