



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

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Annual Meeting on the 5th Floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama, on **February 3, 2026 commencing at 9:00 a.m. CDT.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

The Presiding Chair officially called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Trustee Brown delivered the invocation.

Trustee Brown then paused to honor the life and service of Mr. Bob Kennamer, who passed away on November 30. Mr. Kennamer served with distinction on the Board of Trustees and the Athletic Committee, offering trusted leadership and guidance that contributed significantly to the long-term success of Jacksonville State University, especially in athletics. He was deeply devoted to the institution and generously shared his wisdom and experience. Trustee Brown noted that Mr. Kennamer's influence extended far beyond his official roles and that he would be greatly missed. He then asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Kennamer's honor.

**RECOGNITION**

Chairman Jones recognized former NFL player Eric Davis in honor of Super Bowl week. He noted Davis's record-setting 109-yard interception return in Jacksonville and highlighted his key interceptions for the San Francisco 49ers that helped lead the team to a Super Bowl victory. Chairman Jones also acknowledged Mr. Davis's return to Jacksonville and his important role in student-athlete development at the university. He thanked Mr. Davis for his leadership and continued contributions to JSU.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

President Killingsworth announced that a special presentation would be made in recognition of Mr. Fuller, noting that the university had recently received notification from the Governor's Office regarding the completion of his term on the Board of Trustees. He emphasized the importance of acknowledging Mr. Fuller's service in a meaningful way.

A resolution honoring Mr. Rusty Fuller for his service to Jacksonville State University was then presented. The resolution highlighted Mr. Fuller's longstanding commitment to the university as an alumnus, former student-athlete, and trustee, as well as his leadership during significant

periods of institutional growth and transformation. **A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded, and carried.** *(The full text of Resolution 723 is on file in the President's Office.)*

Mr. Fuller offered brief remarks following the presentation of the resolution, expressing his sincere appreciation to the Board of Trustees, President Killingsworth, and the university community for the opportunity to serve.

#### **FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Dr. Heidi Dempsey presented her final report as Faculty Senate President, highlighting progress in shared governance, academic policy updates, and faculty communication. She announced Dr. David Dempsey as incoming president and Dr. Alan Gilbert as Vice President/President-Elect and thanked the Board for its support.

#### **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:

Trustee Randall E. Jones, Chair  
 Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Vice Chair  
 Trustee Greg Brown  
 Trustee Clarence W. Dauge, III  
 Trustee Drew Linn  
 Trustee Gale Saxon Main  
 Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange  
 Trustee Tony Smoke  
 Trustee Loring White

The Trustees listed above form a quorum to conduct business. Trustees Randy Owen, Tony Ingram, and ex officio member Governor Ivey were absent. Others present included university faculty, staff, students, members of the public, and media representatives. Chairman Jones recognized Dr. Heidi Dempsey, President of the Faculty Senate, Ms. Ayanah Scott, President of the Student Government Association (SGA), and Mr. Michael Barton, Chair of the Staff Council, who were also in attendance.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Jones noted that the draft minutes from the October 21, 2025, meeting had been circulated through Diligent for review and asked if there were any additions or corrections. **Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Main, serving as Acting Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on February 2, 2026. She noted that Trustee Randy Owen, Chair, and Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Vice Chair, were absent. Trustee Main then called on Dr. Shelton to provide an update to the Board. She reported that the Committee had four action items that required the full Board's approval.

### Action Items:

**1. Final Approval of Bachelor of Science in Aviation Program** with concentrations in Aviation Management, Commercial Aviation (Pilot Track), and Public Safety Aviation.

Acting Chair Main opened the floor for discussion and comments. **There being none, the motion passed unanimously. The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.**

**2. Approval of the Creation of the Department of Aviation** to be housed in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Acting Chair Main offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. **There being none, the motion passed unanimously. The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.**

**3. Approval of New Academic Affairs Initiatives: Undergraduate Minors and Undergraduate Micro credentials.**

Acting Chair Main offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. **There being none, the motion passed unanimously. The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.**

**4. Approval of Cap Dual Enrollment Tuition Rate at First 7 hours (8+Hours +Regular UG Tuition & Fees)** A motion by Trustee Main to approve the Dual Enrollment Tuition Proposal, applying a discounted rate to the first seven credit hours and standard tuition beginning with the eighth credit hour.

Acting Chair Main offered an opportunity for discussion and comments. **There being none, the motion passed unanimously. 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 February 2, 2026. She then asked Dr. Medders to provide an update. 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.

**Action Items:**

1. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing “**The J.D. Hess Memorial Annual Scholarship Fund,**” created by Jessica Cobb (’03) in honor of her father, J.D. Hess, to provide annual scholarship support to academically qualified **Freshman or Sophomore** students who graduated from a high school in the **Calhoun County** school system (minimum **3.0 GPA**). The resolution also recognized Jessica Cobb in accordance with the University’s **Giving Societies** and expressed the University’s gratitude for her generosity and commitment to student success.  
**Action:** Adopted unanimously
2. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing “**The Loring White 12th Man Endowed Scholarship Fund**”, created through an endowed gift from an Anonymous Donor in honor of Mr. Loring White (’78) for his contributions to Jacksonville State University. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to academically qualified students, based on the recommendation of the Office of Financial Aid, and will be awarded annually on a competitive basis to students who meet all other scholarship guidelines. The resolution also recognized the Anonymous Donor at an appropriate time in accordance with the University’s **Giving Societies** and expressed the University’s gratitude for their generosity and commitment to student success.  
**Action:** Adopted unanimously
3. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing “**The Karen Molloy Memorial Endowed Accounting Scholarship Fund**”, an endowed scholarship created by Karen Molloy (’80) to provide financial assistance to academically qualified, full-time **Junior or Senior** students majoring in **Accounting**. The scholarship will be awarded annually based on need to students who demonstrate academic aptitude (minimum **3.0 GPA**). The resolution also recognized Karen Molloy in accordance with the University’s **Giving Societies** and expressed the University’s gratitude for her generosity and commitment to student success.  
**Action:** Adopted unanimously
4. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing “**The Karen Molloy Memorial Endowed Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund**”, an endowed scholarship created by Karen Molloy (’80) to provide financial assistance to academically qualified, full-time **Junior or Senior** students majoring in **Criminal Justice**. The scholarship will be awarded annually based on need to students who demonstrate academic aptitude. The resolution also recognized Karen Molloy in accordance with the University’s **Giving Societies** and expressed the University’s gratitude for her generosity and commitment to student success.  
**Action:** Adopted unanimously
5. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing “**The Nannette and Sai Mudiam Annual Scholarship Fund**”, created by Nannette (’14) and Sai (’21) Mudiam, to provide financial assistance to an academically qualified **fifth-semester Nursing student** who will graduate in the summer. The scholarship will be awarded annually based on need to students who demonstrate academic aptitude. The

resolution also recognized Nannette and Sai Mudiam in accordance with the University's **Giving Societies** and expressed the University's gratitude for their generosity and commitment to student success.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously

6. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing "**The Jonathon Andrew Smith and Friends Endowed Scholarship Fund**", an endowed scholarship created by Brennon and Julie Smith in honor of their son, Jonathan Andrew Smith, and friends. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to academically qualified undergraduate or graduate students (preference given to undergraduates) who are members of the **Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity** and the **Marching Southerners**, to be awarded annually on a competitive basis to students who demonstrate academic aptitude (minimum **2.7 GPA**). The resolution also recognized Brennon and Julie Smith in accordance with the University's **Giving Societies** and expressed the University's gratitude for their generosity and commitment to student success.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously

7. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution renaming the **Colonel Clarence William Daugette, Jr. Suite** in Rowe Hall as the **Colonel Clarence William Daugette, Jr., and Family Suite**, in recognition of the distinguished service and generous support of **Clarence William Daugette III** ('74). The resolution also expressed the University's deepest gratitude to Mr. Daugette III for his enduring commitment to Jacksonville State University. *Trustee Clarence William Daugette, III, abstained from voting on this resolution.*

**Action:** Adopted

8. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing "**The Jim and Shirley Sides and Bryan Bonds Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund**", an endowed scholarship created by Stan Davey and Emily Bonds Davey ('87) to provide financial assistance to academically qualified students who are residents of **Calhoun County** and current members of the **Marching Southerners** or the **Marching Ballerinas**. The scholarship honors Mrs. Davey's parents, Jim ('51) and Shirley ('61) Sides, and her first husband, Bryan Bonds ('87), and will be awarded annually. The resolution also recognized Stan and Emily Davey in accordance with the University's **Giving Societies** and expressed the University's gratitude for their generosity and commitment to student success.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously

9. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution naming **Room 220** on the second floor of the **College of Education and Professional Studies Complex** as "**The Cindy Arnold Boatfield Early Childhood Education Classroom**" in recognition of alumna Cindy Arnold Boatfield ('82) and her generous support of Jacksonville State University. The resolution also expressed the University's deepest gratitude to Mrs. Boatfield.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously

10. **Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing "**The Dr. Virginia Yocum Endowed Scholarship Fund**," created by Christopher Yocum ('93) in

honor of his mother, Dr. Virginia Yocum ('62, '64). The scholarship will provide financial assistance to academically qualified, full-time **Junior and Senior** students enrolled in the **Department of Family and Consumer Sciences** in the **College of Education and Professional Studies**, to be awarded annually to students who demonstrate academic aptitude (minimum **3.0 GPA**). The resolution also recognized Christopher Yocum in accordance with the University's **Giving Societies** and expressed the University's gratitude for his generosity and commitment to student success.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously

- 11. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution recognizing an estate gift from Bob Kennamer ('58), a loyal lifetime supporter of Jacksonville State University, that will establish and support three university awards honoring his dear friends William (Bill) ('69, '77) and Sandra Stone ('69, '73, '80): the **William (Bill) and Sandra Stone University Service Award**, the **William (Bill) and Sandra Stone Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award**, and the **William (Bill) and Sandra Stone Dual Enrollment Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award**. The resolution also honored and expressed the University's deepest gratitude for Mr. Kennamer's life, generosity, and lasting philanthropic legacy.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously

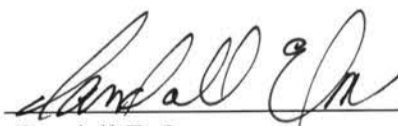
- 12. Resolution:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution formally establishing "**The Sigma Nu ROTC Cadet Annual Scholarship Fund**," created by Rick Mayfield ('90) to provide financial assistance to academically qualified undergraduate or graduate students (preference given to undergraduates) who have a **FAFSA on file**, are members of the **Gamecock Battalion (ROTC)**, and are members of the **Iota Lambda Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity**. The scholarship will be awarded annually, on a competitive basis, to students who demonstrate academic aptitude (minimum GPA of 2.7). The resolution also recognized Rick Mayfield in accordance with the University's **Giving Societies** and expressed the University's gratitude for his generosity and commitment to student success.

**Action:** Adopted unanimously.

**The above Resolutions were presented and adopted on February 3, 2026.**



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



Randall E. Jones  
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 White, Acting Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that the Committee did not have a quorum to conduct business at the February 2, 2026, meeting. Therefore, the following resolution was presented to the full Board for consideration and final approval.

**KENNETH AND JENNY HOWELL  
FOOTBALL INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY**

WHEREAS, Kenneth Howell '72 and his wife, Jenny Howell, are loyal and longtime supporters of Jacksonville State University, whose commitment to the institution has been demonstrated through sustained philanthropy, service, and engagement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Jacksonville State University in 1972, participated in the University's Advanced ROTC program, and has remained deeply connected to his alma mater through alumni leadership, mentorship, and service, including his role as a director of the Jacksonville State University Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell has distinguished himself professionally as President and Chief Executive Officer of Auto Custom Carpets, Inc., the world's leading manufacturer of automotive replacement carpet, and has demonstrated exceptional leadership within the business, civic, and educational communities of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howell and Mrs. Howell have consistently supported Jacksonville State University through their time, talent, and resources, including significant naming gifts in the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts and Merrill Hall, along with their involvement with the Gamecock Club, the National Alumni Association, continuing education initiatives, and numerous student-focused activities; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth and Jenny Howell have made an extraordinary philanthropic commitment of \$10 million to support the construction of a new football indoor practice facility, a transformational gift that will significantly enhance student-athlete development, competitive excellence, and the long-term success of Jacksonville State University Athletics; and


WHEREAS, the Howells' generosity reflects their belief in the mission, vision, and future of Jacksonville State University and represents one of the most significant gifts in the history of the institution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby declares that upon completion, the football indoor practice facility shall be officially named the Ken and Jenny Howell Indoor Practice Facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire Jacksonville State University family, expresses its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Kenneth Howell '72 and Jenny Howell for their extraordinary generosity, enduring loyalty, and unwavering commitment to Jacksonville State University; and

This Resolution is presented this 3rd day of February 2026.

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

  
Randall E. Jones  
Chair of the Jacksonville State University  
Board of Trustees

**Trustee Smoke moved to approve the Resolution. Trustee Orange seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

## AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee did not meet on February 2, 2026.

## BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met on February 2, 2026, 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. **Approval of Summer 2026 Tuition Rates** – Summer tuition will be billed on the same per-credit basis as the prior year based on residency and level (undergraduate or graduate). The 25-26 Differentiated Tuition Rates by Graduate Course will remain the same. The mandatory reduced General University Fee will be charged to all students based on credit hours. The Distance Learning Fee (Online/Hybrid) will be charged at \$40 per credit hour. No Athletic Fee charged.
2. **Approval of Oracle Enterprise Performance Management EPM** - Jax State has evaluated the Oracle EPM Planning & Reporting to modernize financial planning, enhance forecasting accuracy, strengthen reporting capabilities, and reduce the manual effort currently required in budget development and analysis.

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

The President recognized the transition of the 2025 Miss JSU title, thanked the outgoing Miss JSU for her service, and welcomed 2026 Miss JSU Ellington Jones. Ms. Jones offered brief remarks and will represent Jacksonville State University at the Miss Alabama competition in June.

He then asked Dean Lindblom to introduce Thomas (“T.C.”) Macklemore, Director of the Little River Canyon Center, and Dr. Jeremy Stovall, Director of Bands. Dean Lindblom highlighted Mr. Macklemore’s background in public humanities and community engagement and recognized Dr. Stovall’s longstanding service with the Marching Southerners and his leadership of university ensembles. Both offered brief remarks.

The President noted that the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee did not meet and invited Mr. Clark to provide an audit update. Mr. Clark reported progress on the internal audit plan, including completion of the First and Second Year Experience audit and portions of the

Honors College review. He further reported that audit work is underway for the Office of Sponsored Programs (grants and grant management), as well as process reviews related to travel and entertainment and purchase card activity.

The President also reported attending a ceremony in Washington, D.C., where Jacksonville State University reaffirmed its commitment to supporting veterans and recruiting and hiring military spouses, emphasizing the value they bring to the workforce.

He thanked the Board for approving the aviation program and noted that institutional planning is underway to support its implementation. He added that peer institutions have expressed strong support for the initiative and that the program is intended to help address workforce demand in the aviation industry. This concluded the president's report.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:05 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 Daugette and approved unanimously.**

Chairman Jones called for a roll-call vote. President Killingsworth then conducted the roll call vote to approve the executive session. The following people voted:

Trustee Randall Jones, Chair	Yes
Trustee Vivian Davis Figures	Yes
Trustee Greg Brown	Yes
Trustee Clarence W. Daugette, III	Yes
Trustee Drew Linn	Yes
Trustee Gale Saxon Main	Yes
Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange	Yes
Trustee Tony Smoke	Yes
Trustee Loring White	Yes

**Chairman Jones reported a unanimous vote to enter Executive Session and stated that the Board members would return to a public vote on any items requiring action.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED**

The executive session adjourned at 11:30 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 Randy Jones, Trustee Greg Brown, Trustee Clarence W. Daugette, III, Trustee Drew Linn, Trustee Gale Saxon Main, Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange, Trustee Tony Smoke, and Trustee Loring White. *(Trustee Figures did not return after the executive session, and a quorum was present.)*

Chairman Jones reported that the Board had one **action item** from the executive session to approve.

**Action Item:** Trustee Daugette proposed a motion to authorize the Chairman to present an **Honorary Doctorate** on behalf of the Board of Trustees to an individual to be named later. **The motion was seconded. Motion passed.**

The Board of Trustees had no further business. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on **April 14, 2026, on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama.**

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

  
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Randall E. Jones  
Chair of the  
Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees

*Catherine H. Chappell*  
*Recording Secretary*