JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Spring Quarterly Meeting on the 5th Floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama, on **April 14, 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.

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 Drew Linn
Trustee Randy Y. Owen
Trustee Tony Smoke
Trustee Loring White

The Trustees listed above constitute a quorum for conducting business. Trustees Daugette, Ingram, Main, Orange, Suco, and ex officio member Governor Ivey were absent. Others present included university faculty, staff, students, members of the public, and media representatives. Chairman Jones welcomed the newly elected President of the Faculty Senate, Dr. David Dempsey; the newly elected President of the Student Government Association (SGA), Ms. Bethany Stoots; Mr. Michael Barton, Chair of the Staff Council; and special guest Mark Jones, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, who were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Jones stated that the draft minutes of the **April 14, 2026**, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and the **May 26, 2026**, Executive Committee meeting had been distributed to the Board members through Diligent for review. He asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 13, 2026, and called on Dr. Shelton to provide a report. Dr. Shelton noted that the Committee held a productive and informative meeting, recognizing faculty award recipients from the recent Faculty Celebration and acknowledging Trustee White's participation and support. The Committee also heard a presentation from a Student Symposium award recipient, who shared insights into his academic work and teaching experiences.

Dr. Shelton presented **two action items**, and Trustee Owen moved their approval by the full Board:

- Approval of Sanders Flight Training Center as an official off-campus instructional site for Jacksonville State University.
- Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between JSU and Sanders Flight Training Center.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion. There being none, the motion carried unanimously. The motion from the Academic Affairs Committee did not require a second.

Dr. Shelton added that JSU currently operates a Department of Aviation rather than a School of Aviation and that the university will reevaluate whether to elevate it to a school at a later time.

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Owen, Vice Chair of the Advancement Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 13, 2026, and approved **21 action items**. On behalf of the Committee, he presented the recommended resolutions for the Board's consideration and moved their adoption, both collectively and individually.

Scholarship Resolutions

1. **Grace Ann Lundy Talent Award Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established by Rick and Leigh Ann Lundy in honor of Grace Ann Lundy to recognize outstanding talent among Miss JSU Competition participants.
2. **Jerry Lynn Coker Spears & Sarah Coker Pritchett Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established to support students with a preference for members of the Marching Ballerinas who maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.
3. **Alice F. Green Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established in honor of Alice F. Green to support Art and Communications majors with demonstrated financial need.
4. **Sigma Nu Business Major Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established by Rick Mayfield and Sigma Nu alumni to support Business majors who are members of Sigma Nu Fraternity.
5. **Sigma Nu International Student Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established to support international students who are members of Sigma Nu Fraternity

6. **Sigma Nu STEM Major Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established to support STEM students who are members of Sigma Nu Fraternity.
7. **Cynthia Ann West Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established by an anonymous donor to support students in the Exercise Science and Wellness Program.
8. **Bob Hand Memorial Political Science Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by Nancy Hand in memory of Bob Hand to support Political Science students demonstrating leadership and academic achievement.
9. **Dr. Theresa Kisor Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established by Dr. Theresa Kisor to support graduates of Piedmont High School attending JSU.
10. **LTC Gary Stratton ROTC Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established to support ROTC cadets pursuing military service and maintaining academic success.
11. **Charley Pell Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by Ward Pell in memory of Coach Charley Pell, with preference for descendants of former JSU football players.
12. **Dr. Beverly Ann Loren Instructional Leadership Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established in memory of Dr. Beverly Ann Loren to support graduate students pursuing Instructional Leadership degrees.
13. **Justin Sollohub Memorial Annual Scholarship Fund** – Established by Jeniffer and Byron Morris in memory of their son, Justin Sollohub, to support Criminal Justice students with a law enforcement concentration.
14. **Charlotte Stratton Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Early Childhood Education Fund** – Established by LTC Gary and Deborah Stratton to support senior Early Childhood Education majors with financial need.
15. **Sound of Sprite Endowed Scholarship Fund for Music Majors** – Established through a gift from The Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED to support music students, with preference for vocal performance majors.

Naming Resolutions

1. **Dr. Beverly Ann Loren Department of Teacher Education** – Approved naming the Department of Teacher Education in honor of Dr. Beverly Ann Loren through a charitable trust commitment exceeding $1 million.
2. **Coca-Cola UNITED Management and Marketing Wing** – Approved naming the Management and Marketing Wing in Merrill Hall in recognition of support from The Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED.
3. **Sound of Sprite Recording Studio** – Approved naming the recording studio in the Randy Owen Center for Performing Arts in recognition of support from The Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED.

Endowed Scholarship Resolutions

1. **Coca-Cola Bottling Company United Endowed Scholarship Fund for Management and Marketing Majors** – Established to support junior and senior students majoring in Management or Marketing.

2. **Ray and Jimmie Nell Miller Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by Cynthia M. Watson in honor of her parents to support undergraduate and graduate students in any major.
3. **Ray and Jimmie Nell Miller Business Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by Cynthia M. Watson to support junior and senior Business majors in the College of Business and Industry.

The Resolutions above were presented and adopted on April 14, 2026. Because the motion originated with the Advancement Committee, no second was required. The Board subsequently approved them.

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

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

(Full text of the 21 resolutions are on file in the Office of the President.)

Dr. Medders reported that Fundraising for the University's comprehensive campaign has surpassed the halfway point toward the $100 million goal, and plans are underway for the inaugural Philanthropy Day celebration on April 23, 2026. Enrollment trends remain positive, with approximately 3,200 students registered for the summer term and projected growth in both freshman and graduate enrollment for Fall 2026. The report also highlighted ongoing fundraising for the Marching Southerners' new uniforms and participation in the Rose Bowl Parade, as well as expanded alumni engagement initiatives.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Trustee White, Acting Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that the Committee had **no action** items requiring Board approval. He provided a brief update on Athletics, including the introduction of the university's new Women's Basketball Coach, Ricky Austin. The new coach was welcomed, and there was enthusiasm for his leadership and the program's future.

AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Brown, Chair of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee, met and reviewed several items that had accumulated during the previous reporting period, when the committee had not met. The committee discussed the university's external audit services and approved a three-year extension of the current contract with the external auditors. The committee noted that the firm has served the university for four years and, upon completion of the new contract term, will have served a total of seven years. At that time, the committee anticipates issuing a new request for proposals to explore other auditing opportunities.

The committee also reviewed the Fiscal Year 2024–2025 audited financial statements prepared by Warren Averett. The audit resulted in no significant findings, marking the fourth consecutive year the university has received a clean audit report. Committee members commended Dr. Arlitha Harmon and the Finance and Administration staff for their continued diligence and outstanding work in maintaining strong financial controls and compliance practices.

Action Item: On behalf of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, Trustee Brown presented the committee's recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2024–2025 audited financial statements. Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the motion was approved unanimously by the Board. The motion, having been brought forward by the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, did not require a second.

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the committee met but lacked a quorum, so no official action was taken on the two action items regarding the university's finances. He also reported that the committee received updates on campus construction projects, infrastructure improvements, and ongoing coordination with the City of Jacksonville regarding university development matters.

Trustee Smoke moved for the Board's approval of the two action items, and they were unanimously approved, separately and collectively. Trustee Linn seconded the motion.

1. Proposed FY27 Tuition & Fees: MOTION for Adoption of FY2027 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 FY27 student tuition and fees as presented.

2. FY25 Proposed Budget: MOTION for Adoption of FY2027 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 FY27 annual budgets as presented.

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 their participation and engagement during the two days of Board meetings and encouraged continued attendance at committee meetings to stay informed about the university's initiatives and progress.

Resolution Honoring Scott Williams

President Killingsworth presented a resolution recognizing James Scott Williams for 47 years of distinguished service in university dining services, including 37 years at Jacksonville State University. The resolution highlighted Mr. Williams' leadership in campus dining operations, oversight of the transition to the university's new dining hall in 2024, and his longstanding commitment to students, faculty, staff, and the Jacksonville community. It also expressed the Board's appreciation for his dedicated service and approved renaming the current Gamecock Dining Room to the **Scott Williams Dining Room**, made possible by a generous donation from Sodexo. **The Resolution was unanimously adopted and properly seconded by the Board.** (A full text of the Resolution is on file in the Office of the President.)

Following the adoption of a resolution honoring Williams, President Killingsworth noted that the university would formally install signage naming the dining facility after him and host a future recognition event with Williams and his family.

Mr. Williams thanked the Board and the university community for their support throughout his career and reflected on the relationships and experiences that made Jacksonville State University a special place to serve.

Legislative Support and University Updates

President Killingsworth provided trustees with a spring enrollment and demographic snapshot and reported on recent legislative support for the university. He announced that Jax State received $450,000 to support student participation in the Rose Parade and $500,000 for the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts.

Artificial Intelligence Initiatives

The President concluded his report by discussing the university's plans to expand artificial intelligence (AI) education across campus. He stated that Jax State is developing an initiative to ensure that students graduate with a foundational understanding of AI and to provide meaningful AI training for all employees. The effort will be interactive and practical, with the goal of improving institutional effectiveness and preparing students and employees for the evolving technological landscape.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:07 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 Linn 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 Drew Linn	Yes
Trustee Randy Y. Owen	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 concluded at 10:40 am with no other business to discuss.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

Present: Trustee Randy Jones, Trustee Vivian Davis Figures, Trustee Greg Brown, Trustee Drew Linn, Trustee Randy Y. Owen, Trustee Tony Smoke, and Trustee Loring White.

Following the Executive Session, President Killingsworth announced the retirement of Emily Davey, Chief University General Counsel, effective June 2026.

The Board of Trustees had no further business. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am. The next meeting will be held on **August 11, 2026, on the 5th floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama.**

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

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

Catherine H. Chappell,
Recording Secretary