JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Summer Meeting on the 5th Floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama, on **August 11, 2026, commencing at 9:00 a.m. CDT.**

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

The Presiding Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed attendees. Trustee Brown offered the invocation.

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The Chair directed President 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. Daugette, III
Trustee Drew Linn
Trustee Gale Saxon Main
Trustee Cheryl Bevelle-Orange
Trustee Randy Y. Owen
Trustee Tony Smoke
Trustee Mike Suco
Trustee Loring White

Chairman Jones welcomed Trustee Suco to his first Board of Trustees meeting and expressed appreciation for his willingness to serve Jacksonville State University. On behalf of the Board, he thanked Mr. Suco for attending and for his commitment to supporting the university's mission, students, and future growth. The Board welcomed him and looked forward to his contributions as a member of the governing body.

The Trustees listed above constitute a quorum for conducting business. Trustee 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

welcomed Dr. David Dempsey, Ms. Bethany Stoots, President of the Student Government Association (SGA), and Mr. Michael Barton.

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 Board members via Diligent for review. He asked whether anyone had additions or corrections. Hearing none, the Board approved the minutes as presented by unanimous consent.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the Committee met on August 10, 2026, and called on Dr. Shelton to provide an update. She highlighted accomplishments and ongoing initiatives across the academic division and noted that faculty and student leaders also reported to the Committee. Dr. Shelton presented the following **action items,** and Trustee Owen moved for the full Board's approval:

Action Item: Microcredential and Program Changes

- Rename the following microcredentials:
  - Equity and Diversity to Human Relations and Society
  - Criminology and Justice in a Diverse Society to Criminology and Justice in Society
  - Healthcare Systems and Society to Healthcare and Society
- Create new undergraduate microcredentials in:
  - Public Administration
  - Economic Development
  - Geo AI Marketing
- Program Change:
  - Eliminate the Entrepreneurship concentration within the Bachelor of Science in Management program.

Action Item: Establish the Student Success Center as a minor unit of instruction. The Board approved the designation of the **Student Success Center** as a unit of instruction. The change formally recognizes the center's instructional responsibilities, including SSC 101 and SSC 104 coursework.

Action Item: Establish the Center for Leadership in American Principles. The Board approved establishing the **Center for Leadership in American Principles (CLAP)** as a unit of public service reporting to the Provost.

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.

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Main, Chair of the Advancement Committee, reported that the Committee met on August 10, 2026, and approved **10 action items**. She asked Dr. Medders to summarize the Committee meeting. Dr. Medders provided updates on the university's $100 million comprehensive

campaign, alumni engagement initiatives, and recent activities, including the Alaska alumni trip. The Committee also received reports on the growth of marketing and digital communications efforts, website engagement metrics, and ongoing digital marketing initiatives. Additional updates covered retail sales and licensing revenue, current enrollment trends, and student recruitment activities.

Trustee Main presented the recommended resolutions for the Board's consideration and moved to adopt them, both collectively and individually.

- **Mark Spain "Against All Odds" Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established through a gift from alumnus Mark Spain ('84) to provide financial assistance to first-generation students from North Alabama with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing a degree at Jacksonville State University.

- **Freida Wilson Benn Carll Early Childhood Development Scholarship Fund** – Established by Freddy Benn in memory of his mother, Freida Wilson Benn Carll, to support junior and senior Early Childhood Education majors with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and demonstrated financial need.

- **John J. and Ivania Ketterer Cultural Outreach Endowed International House Scholarship Fund** – Established through a gift from Viachaslau Katliarou ('12, '16) to support International House students who demonstrate a commitment to cultural outreach, cross-cultural understanding, and community building, and to honor the legacy of Dr. John J. Ketterer and Ivania Ketterer.

- **Leah Grace Tarvin Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by Lou Thomas in memory of her granddaughter, Leah Grace Tarvin, to support junior, senior, or graduate students majoring in Criminal Justice or Forensic Investigations with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The scholarship is funded by donations and contributions to create a lasting legacy honoring Leah Grace Tarvin.

- **Ralph A. Burke Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by Joy C. Burke and the Burke Family in memory of Ralph A. Burke ('83, '88, '98) to support Jacksonville State University students, with preference given to junior or senior Teacher Education majors with demonstrated financial need and for graduates of Etowah or DeKalb County high schools.

- **Rita Fuller Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established through an estate gift from Rita Fuller ('88) to support STEM majors at Jacksonville State University, with preference given to female students who were in foster care, a ward of the court, or an orphan after age 13. The scholarship honors her legacy and commitment to helping future generations pursue higher education.

- **William "Bill" Raynes Jones and Victoria "Vicky" Wagner Jones International House Endowed Scholarship Fund** – Established by alumni William "Bill" Raynes Jones ('70) and Victoria "Vicky" Wagner Jones to support International House students, with first preference given to students from Latin America and second preference to international students from other regions, promoting cultural understanding and global engagement.

- **Dr. Mark Hearn Business Communications Classroom** – Classroom 106 in Merrill Hall was named the **Dr. Mark Hearn Business Communications Classroom** in recognition of a generous gift from Bill Wakefield and in honor of Dr. Mark Hearn, Associate Dean of the College of Business and Industry.

- **Dr. Margaret Pope Memorial Bench** – An outdoor bench at the southwest corner of the walking track near West Village Residence Hall was named in honor of Dr. Margaret Pope in recognition of her 50 years of service to Jacksonville State University as a faculty member, mentor, coach, and advocate for student wellness and success.

- **Dr. Barry and Mrs. Amanda Howard Stained-Glass Window** – A custom stained-glass window in the Recital Hall of the Education Wing within the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts was named in honor of **Dr. Barry Howard** ('83, '90) and **Mrs. Amanda Howard** ('88, '91) in recognition of their generous support of Jacksonville State University and their appreciation for music and the arts.

The Board presented and adopted the Resolutions above on August 11, 2026. Because the motion originated with the Advancement Committee, no second was required. The Board then approved the Resolutions.

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

Randall E. Jones
President Pro Tempore of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees

(Full text of the 10 Resolutions are on file in the Office of the President.)

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE:

Trustee White, Chair of the Athletic Committee, reported that the Committee had **no action items** requiring Board approval. Trustee White then called on Mr. Seitz to present the Athletics Committee report. Mr. Seitz reported on the Athletics Department's accomplishments over the previous year, including conference championships, individual and coaching honors, national media exposure, and exceptional academic performance among student-athletes. The Board noted the department's continued success and recognized its contributions to advancing the University's mission through excellence in athletics and academics.

AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Brown, Chair of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee, met on August 10, 2026. The Committee received updates from Mr. Clark, who provided an overview of recent Internal Audit activities, including the results of several completed projects:

- Travel and Entertainment Audit
- Sponsored Programs Audit
- Information Technology General Controls Audit
- Grant Policy Update Project

Mr. Clark also presented the Internal Audit plan for the upcoming quarter and discussed planned audit engagements and compliance initiatives.

The Committee had **one action item.** Trustee Brown moved to approve the resolution and recommend its consideration and approval by the full Board of Trustees.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion. There being none, the motion carried unanimously. The motion from the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee did not require a second.

RESOLUTION 727

COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF ALABAMA TITLE 16, CHAPTER 5A, ARTICLES 2, 3, AND 4

WHEREAS, Act 2026-432 amended the Code of Alabama to add Title 16, Chapter 5A, Articles 2, 3, and 4, effective October 1, 2026, concerning faculty senates, tenure, and approval and control of courses and curriculum at public institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees possesses general authority over the governance and administration of Jacksonville State University and may establish, modify, or discontinue advisory committees, councils, and similar bodies operating under the authority of the University;

WHEREAS, Section 16-5A-21 provides that only the governing board of a public institution of higher education may establish a faculty senate at the institution, and that any faculty senate established before October 1, 2026, is abolished unless continued in the manner prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, Section 16-5A-22 requires each governing board, before establishing a faculty senate, to adopt a policy governing the selection and other conditions of faculty senate membership, including adequate representation of each college and school and such additional requirements or exceptions as may be provided by the governing board; and

WHEREAS, Section 16-5A-23 provides that a faculty senate is advisory only, may not be delegated final decision-making authority on any matter, and may not issue public statements on behalf of the institution or otherwise represent institutional positions; and

WHEREAS, Sections 16-5A-51 through 16-5A-55 require each governing board to adopt policies regarding tenure, post-tenure review, dismissal for cause, serious misconduct, due process, and publication of such policies; and

WHEREAS, Section 16-5A-80 provides that courses or curriculum required to obtain a degree at a public institution of higher education must be approved by the governing board, that each governing board shall have control over any course or subject taught at a public institution of higher education, and that the governing board may delegate approval of courses to a designated university administrator as authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University recognizes the need to preserve orderly institutional governance, maintain appropriate channels for faculty and staff input,

and ensure that all University policies and advisory structures operate consistently with Alabama law and the authority of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees further recognizes that the existing Faculty Senate and Staff Council should be dissolved so that any future faculty, staff, or employee advisory structure may be established, governed, and operated only as authorized by the Board of Trustees and in compliance with applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University hereby abolishes the existing Faculty Senate of Jacksonville State University and Staff Council of Jacksonville State University, together with their respective constitutions, bylaws, charters, operating procedures, and any other governing documents, effective upon adoption of this Resolution, except as may be necessary to wind down records, pending communications, or administrative transition matters as directed by the President; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the abolition of the existing Faculty Senate and Staff Council shall not be construed to eliminate the opportunity for faculty, staff, administrators, students, or other members of the University community to provide input to the President, Provost, administration, or Board of Trustees through such advisory committees, councils, task forces, working groups, or other mechanisms as may be authorized by the Board of Trustees or established under Board-approved policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees delegates authority to the President of Jacksonville State University, in consultation with the Provost, University counsel, and such other University officials as the President deems appropriate, to develop and present to the Board of Trustees for consideration and adoption of one or more Board policies designed to comply with Code of Alabama Title 16, Chapter 5A, Articles 2, 3, and 4; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policies to be developed for Board consideration shall address, as applicable: (1) the establishment, membership, selection, leadership, removal, advisory scope, communications, and operating parameters of any faculty senate or faculty advisory body; (2) tenure, post-tenure review, dismissal, serious misconduct, due process, and publication of required tenure-related policies; and (3) Board control, approval, and permissible delegation concerning courses, subjects, curriculum, and degree requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that until the Board of Trustees adopts new policies pursuant to this Resolution, no faculty senate, staff council, or similar institution-wide representative governance body shall have authority to act on behalf of Jacksonville State University, represent an institutional position, exercise delegated decision-making authority, or bind the University, the President, the administration, or the Board of Trustees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President is authorized to take all actions reasonably necessary to implement this Resolution, including providing notice to affected University constituencies, preserving institutional records, identifying and recommending revisions to conflicting University procedures pending Board consideration and approval, and coordinating the development of compliant advisory and policy structures for future Board consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the abolition of the Faculty Senate and Staff Council shall not affect the validity of any recommendations, reports, actions, or communications made prior to the effective date of this Resolution.

This Resolution is presented this 11th day of August 2026.

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

Randall E. Jones
President Pro Tempore of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Smoke, Chair of the Building and Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met and reviewed several **action items**. On behalf of the Committee, he moved to approve them. The Board approved the following **action items**, both individually and collectively.

Action Item: Approval of the Line of Credit Renewals:

- A $5 million emergency line of credit with Regions Bank - The proceeds of the line of credit are to be used for emergency operating needs. This line has not been used.
- A $30 million capital line of credit with Regions Bank - The proceeds of the line of credit were used during the tornado for Merrill Hall, and to bridge financing and support capital projects.

Action Item: Approval of 403b Monitoring Report from CAPTRUST

- The Board approved updates related to the university's retirement investment program, including matters concerning the TIAA 403(b) plan.

Action Item: Approval of Course & Program Aviation Fees Ratification

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 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 aviation fees as presented.

Action Item: Approval of the removal of the International Student Application Fee Deposit.

Action Item: Approval of the 2026-2031 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvements Plan

The motion carried unanimously. Because the motion originated from the Building and Finance Committee, no second was required.

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 Chairman and Trustees for their commitment to the University and participation in the Board meetings. He also thanked the University team for its hard work and highlighted significant activity and progress since the last Board meeting.

President Killingsworth emphasized the importance of maintaining faculty involvement during the University's transition to a new governance model. He reported that Dr. David Dempsey has agreed to continue serving as a point of contact for faculty concerns until the University develops a new model and presents it to the Board in October.

He thanked Dr. Dempsey for his service and leadership and expressed appreciation for Chief Barton and the Staff Council. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to keeping faculty and staff engaged and represented throughout the transition.

President Killingsworth noted the changing landscape of higher education and the importance of preparing the University for the future. He reported that the University received a federal "Call to Action" from the U.S. Department of Education outlining institutional commitments and expectations. The University is preparing its response and will continue to ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

President Killingsworth reported on several strategic partnerships designed to expand educational opportunities and strengthen student pathways to degree completion. He highlighted a new 3+3 partnership agreement with Cumberland School of Law that provides an accelerated route for qualified students to earn both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. Dr. Owens provided additional information on program requirements and advising.

President Killingsworth also discussed a partnership with the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC) and the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy, which allows students to pursue law enforcement certification while completing their degree requirements.

In addition, he reported on a memorandum of understanding with Gadsden State Community College that establishes transfer pathways for students completing technical associate degrees, including welding and HVAC, to continue their education through bachelor's degree programs at Jacksonville State University. He noted that the agreement broadens opportunities for students in programs that have not traditionally aligned with four-year degree pathways and commended Dr. Stone and others for developing the partnership.

President Killingsworth highlighted the success of the documentary ***My Home's in Alabama: The Randy Owen Story.*** He thanked the faculty, staff, students, and community partners who contributed to the project.

An update was provided on a new professional development initiative for administrative associates. He recognized Catherine Chappell, Kim Turner, and Leah Stewart for organizing the

program and noted that Chick-fil-A provided customer service training led by JSU alumnus Dan Roberts.

Dr. Shelton reported overwhelmingly positive participant feedback, with many attendees describing the program as one of their most beneficial training experiences. President Killingsworth emphasized the role of administrative associates as front-line representatives of the University and the program's contribution to a welcoming, student-centered campus culture.

President Killingsworth provided an update on the CHEER Act, the state's outcomes-based funding model for higher education. The University has submitted its proposed performance measures for approval and established a team to prepare for implementation.

As part of this work, the University identified students who had completed degree requirements but had not applied for graduation and is working to ensure those credentials are awarded appropriately. President Killingsworth expressed support for accountability measures tied to student retention and completion.

The new AmFirst Bank branch at the corner of Highway 21 and Highway 204 is open. He invited Trustees to attend the official ribbon-cutting ceremony later in the month and thanked AmFirst Bank for its continued partnership and investment in the campus community.

The report concluded with an announcement that Mrs. Gloria Floyd has assumed the role of Chief University Counsel and that the University has filled her previous position. He invited Ms. Floyd to introduce the University's newest legal team member, Mrs. Shelby Scott.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:00 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 E. Jones, Chair	Yes
Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Vice Chair	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 Randy Y. Owen	Yes

Trustee Tony Smoke	Yes
Trustee Mike Suco	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 11:02 am with no other business to discuss.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon returning to open session following the executive session, President Killingsworth called the roll. A quorum was present.

Present: Chairman Randy Jones; Senator Vivian Davis Figures; Trustees Greg Brown, Clarence W. Daugette III, Drew Linn, Gale Saxon Main, Cheryl Bevelle-Orange, Randy Y. Owen, Tony Smoke, Mike Suco, and Loring White.

Chairman Jones reported that one action item required Board consideration. Trustee Smoke moved to authorize President Killingsworth to negotiate a proposed ground lease with Cobblestone, and Trustee Daugette seconded. After discussion, the motion carried, and the Board approved Resolution No. 728.

RESOLUTION NO. 728

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO NEGOTIATE A PROPOSED GROUND LEASE

WHEREAS, Jacksonville State University has been presented with a potential development opportunity involving a proposed ground lease with Cobblestone for the development of a hotel project on University-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees determined that it is in the best interest of the University for the President to negotiate the terms and conditions of a proposed ground lease for consideration by the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University that the President is hereby authorized to negotiate a proposed ground lease with Cobblestone and its affiliated entities in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed ground lease shall be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval prior to execution.

Adopted in open meeting this 11th day of August, 2026.

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

Randall E. Jones
President Pro Tempore of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees had no further business. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next meeting will be held on **October 20, 2026, on the 5th floor of Meehan Hall in Jacksonville, Alabama.**

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

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

Catherine H. Chappell, Recording Secretary