

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its summer meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama on **Monday, July 23, 2012 at 10:00 am CDT.**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order and requested that Dr. William Meehan open the meeting with an invocation.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mrs. Beth Meehan, First Lady of JSU, to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett welcomed three new Trustees to the Board. They are Mr. Clarence W. Dauge, III, Mrs. Gale Saxon Main and Senator Vivian Davis Figures.

Roll call showed the following members of the Board of Trustees were:

PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Bennett
Mr. Jim Coxwell
Mr. Clarence W. Dauge, III
Mr. Thomas Dedrick
Senator Vivian Davis Figures
Mr. Randall Jones
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main
Mr. Randy Owen
Mr. Ronnie Smith
Dr. Benji Blair, Faculty Senate President
Ms. Alex Rainwater, Student Government Association

ABSENT:

Governor Robert Bentley

Dr. Thomas Bice

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Benji Blair, Faculty Senate President, and stated that this was Dr. Blair's first meeting with the Board. Dr. Blair stated that he looked forward to working with the Trustees in the upcoming year.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Ms. Alex Rainwater to the Board of Trustee meeting and thanked her for representing Mr. Jason Sumner at this meeting. Ms. Rainwater stated that the SGA is ready for an exciting fall semester.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bennett asked that the minutes of the April 16, 2012 Board of Trustee meeting be reviewed. Mr. Jim Coxwell made a motion to approve the Board of Trustee minutes. Mr. Thomas Dedrick seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Board of Trustees presented Mr. G. Mack Roberts and Mr. Jamie Red Etheredge with Resolutions naming them Emerti Trustees. Mr. Jim Folsom, Jr. was presented a Resolution awarding him the Honorary Doctor of Letters and an invitation to speak at the Summer Commencement ceremony August 10, 2012.

Chairman Bennett made the following Board of Trustee Committee assignments:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Bennett, Chair

Jim Coxwell

Ronnie Smith

Randy Owen

Randy Jones

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Randy Owen, Chair

Gale Saxon Main

Clarence Daugette

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Jim Coxwell, Chair
Jim Bennett
Thomas Dedrick
Randy Jones

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ronnie Smith, Chair
Thomas Dedrick
Vivian Figures

HONORS COMMITTEE

Jim Bennett, Chair
Randy Owen
Vivian Figures

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Randy Owen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, made the following motion for the Board's approval:

Change JSU baccalaureate education requirements to reflect common practices at other universities by decreasing the minimum number of credit hours required at 300 – 400 level courses from 52 hours to 36 hours.

Coming from the Academic Affairs Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion by the Board the motion was approved unanimously.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Coxwell, Chairman of the Athletic Committee, stated that the Committee did not have any actionable items at this time.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Chairman Bennett asked Mr. Randy Jones, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Health Services, to give an update on the Committee's progress. Mr. Jones stated that the Committee has met several times and is ready to send Requests for Proposals to local area health care providers to see what we might be able to do to

enhance the student health on campus. He hopes to be able to give more information at the October Board of Trustee meeting.

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ronnie Smith presented the Interim FY 2012-2013 operations budget recommendation for the University. The budget allows the University to operate until the final budget is presented at the October 15, 2012 Board of Trustees meeting.

**JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
UNRESTRICTED OPERATING BUDGET
FISCAL YEARS OCTOBER THRU SEPTEMBER**

	FY 2011-12 Approved Budget	FY 2012-13 Interim Budget	% Change
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Appropriations:			
Operations & Maintenance Line Items	\$ 36,043,099	\$ 34,601,375	-4.00%
Little River Canyon	198,143	188,233	-5.00%
Film Initiative Alabama Scenic River Trail	448,625	426,194	-5.00%
		100,000	
Sub-total	36,689,867	35,315,802	-3.75%
Tuition	61,918,573	67,230,675	8.58%
Miscellaneous	1,013,000	3,019,651	198.09%
Auxiliary Operations	5,000,000	5,000,000	0.00%
Total Estimated Receipts	\$ 104,621,440	\$ 110,566,128	5.68%
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			

Instruction	\$ 41,021,162	\$ 42,463,161	3.52%
Research & Public Service	2,131,250	2,056,023	-3.53%
Academic Support	6,540,076	6,684,847	2.21%
Student Services	10,335,327	11,366,259	9.97%
Plant Operation & Maintenance	11,951,853	12,002,018	0.42%
Institutional Support	13,708,006	13,145,114	-4.11%
Scholarships & Fellowships	13,933,766	17,848,706	28.10%
Auxiliary Operations	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>5,000,000</u>	0.00%
Total Estimated Expenditures	<u>\$ 104,621,440</u>	<u>\$ 110,566,128</u>	5.68%

Coming from the Building and Finance Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion from the Board the Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Capital Projects

Ayers Hall Transportation Building Expansion

Dr. Meehan stated that the contractor, Goodgame Company Inc., of Pell City is ahead of schedule and should have the expansion project completed by the end of July. This additional space will provide new opportunities for the Department of Technology and Engineering to complete material testing and other laboratory/ simulations for our students.

Boiler Replacement Projects

Dr. Meehan told the Board that the new boilers will be energy efficient units and reduce the University's carbon footprint and utility usage on campus.

- Pete Mathews Coliseum

Low bidder was Jake Marshall Service of Birmingham.

- Stone Center Boiler Replacement

Low bidder was Jake Marshall Service of Birmingham.

- Wallace Hall

Low bidder was Hale Building of Anniston

Computer Center UPS/Generator

Dr. Meehan stated that installation of the generator and various components is complete and system operational.

Crow Hall Chiller Replacement

Dr. Meehan told the Board that Jake Marshall Service of Birmingham has completed the project.

Harwell Street Sidewalk Project

Dr. Meehan reported that the new sidewalk has been installed from Highway 204 to Trustee Circle behind the International House and on the east side of Ayers Hall. This sidewalk enhances pedestrian traffic and safety and was completed by Logan Construction of Jacksonville.

Merrill Hall Roof Replacement

Dr. Meehan explained that Rycars Construction Inc. of Atlanta, GA is scheduled to complete this project on July 29 if the weather cooperates.

Pannell Hall Roof Replacement

Dr. Meehan reported that GKL Companies Inc. of Rainbow City, AL is scheduled to complete this project on July 31 if weather cooperates.

Stephenson Hall Gamecock Diner – Roof Top HVAC Units

Dr. Meehan said that Coosa Heating and Cooling of Gadsden is working on this project and it is scheduled to be completed in early August.

Stephenson Hall Wellness Center

Dr. Meehan told the Board that Substantial Completion occurred on February 13 by the contractor, RFI. Final change order is being processed and roof warranty issue being addressed. The attractive facility is heavily used by students.

Softball Field Pressbox Project

Dr. Meehan reported that this project has been designed and bid by Holcomb, Norton and Partners of Birmingham. The project bid, opened on July 17, 2012 and the apparent low bidder is Boatner Construction Company of Gadsden, Alabama.

Tennis Court Project

Dr. Meehan reported that the project is being designed by Holcomb, Norton and Partners of Birmingham and should be out for bid in August.

University Activities

Fall Application Count 2012

Dr. Meehan told the Board that the Office of Admissions Application Count was located under “Tab 4” of the Trustee binder. This report provides a great deal of information, including: the “Conversion Rate” (percentage of accepted applications, first time freshman and first time transfer students that become enrolled students) over the last five years is 53%, accepted fall semester applications for first time freshman and transfer students are a total of 3,317 as of July 18th. This is 83% of last year’s final number and 87% of the last five year average with one month and one week before classes begin.

He stated that the numbers look good at this time for an increase in enrollment of new students. First time freshmen accepted applications are at 91% of last year’s total which was a record high for freshman enrollment. This fall marks the third year of the Board’s Scholarship Initiative which has increased freshman enrollment and retention among scholarship recipients. Also in your binder is the Housing Occupancy Report for University Housing which indicates 87.3% occupancy before the last orientation and registration session in August.

Government Affairs

Dr. Meehan reported that the Education Trust Fund Budget passed and was signed by Governor Bentley in mid-May. The University’s operating and maintenance (O&M) budget was reduced by four percent. Our appropriation (with line items) is \$35,315,802 which is approximately \$14.5 million less than 2008. The University has absorbed reductions and/or proration of over 24% in its appropriation since 2008.

He told the Board that under Tab 4 of the Trustee binder was JSU's itemized appropriation. In addition to our O&M appropriation of \$34,601,375 the university received line items of: \$188,233 for Little River Canyon, \$426,194 for the Northeast Alabama Film and Entertainment Initiative Program and \$100,000 for the Alabama Scenic River Trail.

Dr. Meehan expressed his appreciation for the Board's support in attempting to hold our tuition level. Although a number of Alabama's four year universities have announced increased tuition, JSU has kept its increase below 4 percent which was this Board's pledge to students. Not all institutions have completed their tuition increases for fall but so far JSU has increased tuition by the least amount. When this year's tuition and fees are reported by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, JSU will remain below the median in the state of Alabama.

Among the Acts passed by the Legislature this session are two which allow more flexibility for JSU. The first allows the Board to have a member(s) participate in an official meeting by electronic means if a quorum of the Board is physically present at the posted meeting site. The other raises the bid law from \$7,500 to \$15,000 for any purchase without requiring a bid. This change puts regional universities at parity with other institutions of higher education.

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Dr. Meehan stated that Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, had prepared a report which was located in the Trustee binder under Tab 4. He asked Dr. Turner to mention some of the significant academic affairs announcements and to introduce some special guests to report on their trip to China.

Dr. Turner stated that Dr. Bill Carr would be retiring as Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education August 1st after thirty years of service to the University. Chairman Bennett presented Dr. Carr with a Resolution honoring him for his service.

Dr. Turner asked Dr. John Hammett, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, to update the Board on the possibility of JSU receiving an additional FCC license for a radio station. Dr. Hammett stated the application was made over two years ago and we were in competition with other groups. Although we were awarded the license, another group appealed the decision and we are awaiting the results of the appeal. We should know something for sure within the next couple of months. The new station will be 25,000 watts and will expand coverage from Georgia to near Birmingham. The new station will carry NPR, selected student programming, sporting events, advertisements for the University, etc. The current station which is about 6,000

watts will be turned back into a truly student-run entity. This will be a wonderful asset for the University.

Dr. Turner introduced Dr. Steve Whitton, Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program, and Ms. Gena Christopher, Instructor of English, to give an update of the Honors Program. Dr. Whitton stated that the Honors Program is in its fourth year and offers an enriched educational experience in honors courses across the curriculum. Beginning this fall there will be thirty-two elite honors scholars every academic year. As of this date five hundred and four seats have been filled in honors classes, which is an increase of 10% over last fall. In May a group of ten honors students, accompanied by Dr. Whitton and Dr. Christopher, participated in EH 399 which was a class in China. They gave a Powerpoint presentation about their trip and told what a wonderful opportunity this was for all of them and thanked the Board for making the honors classes and the trip to China possible.

Dr. Turner stated that on Friday July 13th the University received confirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and its Commission on Colleges that its Board of Trustees had approved JSU as a Level V (doctorate granting) institution with no need for a follow up review. Dr. Meehan thanked Dr. Turner and our entire faculty, academic and professional staff for their hard work to help make this possible.

Athletics

Dr. Meehan asked Mr. Warren Koegel, Director of Athletics, to update the Board on the completion of our sports season. He stated that he is very proud that JSU has won 51 OVC Championships since joining in 2003 considerably more than any other conference member. Mr. Koegel stated that athletes have not only excelled on the field, but in the classroom also. Twelve teams posted a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher, which is the most in school history. 112 student-athletes were named to the OVC Commissioner Honor Roll and 141 student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher during the academic year. 12 student-athletes ended the year with 4.0 GPAs.

Mr. Koegel stated that the softball press box and seating facility improvement bid was awarded to Boatner Construction Company of Gadsden and construction will begin soon. He stated that the Calhoun County Commission, particularly Mr. J. D. Hess, have been instrumental in helping with these improvements. They will be removing the old seating and reusing it at high school or elementary facilities in the county where they are needed. The tennis complex has not gone to bid yet, but they are working with the architects to come up with a design and hope to be able to complete that process soon. Mr. Koegel stated that his entire report could be found under Tab 4 of the Trustee binder.

Government Affairs

Dr. Meehan called on Mr. Don Killingsworth, Director of Government Relations for his report. Mr. Killingsworth introduced Jeff and Debra Miller of The Miller Group. They are on contract to represent the University as lobbyist in Montgomery. Mrs. Miller showed a Powerpoint presentation that explained the process they go through to assist the University with funding opportunities and relationship building with legislators.

Information Technology

Dr. Meehan asked Mr. Vinson Houston, Vice President for Information Technology, to give a follow-up report on activities toward Wi-Fi connectivity and broad band access on campus. Mr. Houston stated that the generator and uninterrupted power supply for the Computer Center has been installed and will assist in keeping the network up and running during power outages. He stated that Wifi has been expanded across campus and now exists in all buildings. Bandwidth has been doubled which will greatly enhance network capability. Mr. Houston stated his full report was located in the Trustee binder under Tab 4.

Institutional Research and Assessment

Dr. Meehan asked Dr. Alicia Simmons, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, to update the Board on accomplishments in her division. Dr. Simmons stated that she is very excited to announce that the JSU Herbarium has received a federal grant for \$392,382 from the National Science Foundation which will be used to make a collection of plant specimens more accessible to scientists, teachers and students.

Dr. Simmons stated that we are in the process of getting ready to develop materials to present to SACS for our upcoming accreditation review. In April 2013 the campus will have a visit from the onsite peer review team.

Dr. Simmons stated that several departments have recently completed Cycle VI of Program Review. She presented each of them with recognition certificates.

University Advancement

Dr. Meehan asked Dr. Charles Lewis, Vice President for University Advancement, to update the Board on activities within the JSU Foundation Inc. and the Advancement Division. Dr. Lewis stated that he had placed a full report under Tab 4 of the Trustee binder. He said that fourteen RFP's were sent to various fundraising groups. He plans to bring three of the groups to campus for presentations and be able to report to the Board at the January meeting who was selected.

Dr. Lewis stated that we have partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to create a website called Internships.com where student can go to post their resumes online and be matched to appropriate internships with area companies.

Executive Session

Dr. Meehan presented a statement from Mr. Sam Monk, Acting University Counsel, who certified the Executive Session necessary to discuss pending litigation and controversies not currently being litigated, but likely to be litigated if the Board takes a proposed course of action.

Dr. Meehan called roll for voting to approve the Executive Session. The following persons voted:

Chairman Jim Bennett, Aye
Mr. Jim Coxwell, Aye
Mr. Clarence W. Daugette, III, Aye
Mr. Thomas Dedrick, Aye
Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Aye
Mr. Randall Jones, Aye
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main, Aye
Mr. Ronnie Smith, Aye
Mr. Randy Owen, Aye

Chairman Bennett reported a unanimous vote for the Executive Session and stated the Board members would return for a public vote on any actionable items.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mr. Owen made the following motion on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee:

In recognition of Dr. William D. Carr's service to Jacksonville State University as Dean, College of Graduate Studies for 30 years and to honor him upon his retirement, it is recommended that the Educational Specialist (Ed.S) Program in Instructional Leadership, in the College of Education and Professional Studies be named the *William D. Carr Instructional Leadership Program*, effective July 23, 2012.

Coming from the Academic Affairs Committee the motion did not require a second. After discussion it was approved by the Board.

Dr. Meehan told the Board that the Jacksonville State University campus has received recognition as *Tree Campus USA*. This is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation and sets our campus apart from other schools and shows our commitment to encouraging students and University personnel to care for our planet's tree resources. Dr. Meehan stated that he appreciates the great job that Mr. Carlson, Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs, and Mr. George Lord, Director of Physical Plant, do to keep the campus grounds clean and attractive. The grounds are the first thing students see when they come to campus and this is a great help with recruiting efforts.

There being no further business, Chairman Bennett declared that the meeting was adjourned and stated that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, October 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. on the 11th Floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Secretary

President Pro Tempore