

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of **JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY** held its Winter meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama on **Monday, January 27, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. CDT.**

Mr. Jim Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order.

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

Chairman Bennett requested that Dr. William Meehan open the meeting with an invocation.

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

PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Bennett
Mr. Jim Coxwell
Mr. Clarence W. Daugette, III
Mr. Thomas Dedrick
Senator Vivian Davis Figures
Mr. Randall Jones
Mrs. Gale Saxon Main
Mr. Randy Owen
Mr. Ronnie Smith
Dr. Teresa Gardner, Faculty Senate President
Ms. Jade Wagner, Student Government Association

ABSENT:

Governor Robert Bentley
Dr. Thomas Bice

Chairman Bennett welcomed Ms. Jade Wagner, President of the Student Government Association, to the Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Wagner stated that the SGA is now able to access the money generated from the general fee which is being charged to all students. This allows them to offer more student activities on campus. Ms. Wagner stated that Higher Education Day is February 27th and the SGA is working hard to get a large number of students to attend.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Dr. Teresa Gardner, Faculty Senate President, to the Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Gardner gave the following report to the Board:

Faculty Senate

1. The Senate would like to thank Mr. Vinson Houston for his efforts to increase the Wi-Fi bandwidth across campus. Faculty and students are very grateful.
2. Janet Moore from the Office of Academic Advisement demonstrated upgrades to the GradesFirst program for faculty use. The upgrades will allow faculty to schedule advisement appointments and record notes from advisement sessions. It can also be used to record class attendance. GradesFirst allows faculty to track attendance and send out early warning emails to students regarding their absences from class and their grades.
3. **Quality Enhancement Plan**. Ms. Gena Christopher provided an update regarding the Quality Enhancement Plan draft at the January Senate meeting on the 13th. She talked about the benefits for students in that they will have better trained faculty and the benefits for faculty will be an increased understanding of how to use technology to develop student critical thinking skills. The information was very well received and the plan has the Senate's full support.
4. **Award for Excellence in Learning Technology**. Since we are increasing our efforts to use 21st century technology in our classrooms, the Senate proposed a new faculty award to the University Council. It is called the *Award for Excellence in Learning Technology*. The award is designed to honor an outstanding faculty member who has contributed significantly to the enhancement of teaching and learning through the use of instructional technologies to improve student learning, motivation, and creativity. The faculty member selected for this honor will receive an honorarium of \$500 and a framed certificate that recognizes this accomplishment during our annual faculty awards ceremony.

Faculty Research Activity Awards

Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award

Outstanding Teacher Award

Ringer Faculty Development Award

Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service

Award for Excellence in Learning Technology

Dr. Gardner reported that a faculty-related student advisement issue occurred over the Christmas holiday and was brought to her attention during the last University Council meeting. She stated that she has several ideas for how to remedy the problem of students seeking academic advisement and has spoken with the Senate committee chair for the Admissions and Scholarship Committee. The Senate is creating a list of suggestions to address the issue for future breaks between semesters and should have something to present at the next Senate meeting.

Chairman Bennett welcomed Mr. Ron Sparks, Director of Rural Development for the State of Alabama, to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Chairman Bennett congratulated Trustee Randy Owen for his recent induction in the Songwriter's Hall of Fame and on the birth of his new granddaughter, Harper Rose.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bennett asked that the minutes of the October 21, 2013 Board of Trustees meeting be reviewed.

Mr. Randy Jones made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees minutes as written. Mr. Clarence Daugette seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

ADVENTURE RIDES & CONCEPTS, MR. STEVE WAGNER, MS. LESLIE KLASING, MR. PETE CONROY

Mr. Pete Conroy, Director of Environmental Policy and Information Center, and Ms. Leslie Klasing, of Waldrep, Stewart & Kendrick, presented the Trustees with a Memorandum of Understanding between Jacksonville State University and Adventure Ride Systems & Concepts, LLC that would allow them to move forward with the concept of constructing an educational zip line at Little River Canyon. They explained that the agreement is non-binding and that either party can walk away from it by just giving notice to the other party. The Memorandum of Understanding is a way to show that both parties are in agreement with moving forward with the planning stages of this project. A more detailed agreement will be presented for the Board's review at their April 21st meeting.

Mr. Randy Jones made a motion that the Memorandum of Understanding be approved. After discussion among the Board, Mr. Thomas Dedrick seconded the motion. The motion was approved with six yes votes, two no votes and one abstention. The Board members voted as follows:

**Bennett – Yes
Coxwell – Yes
Daugette – Yes
Dedrick – Yes
Figures – Abstain
Jones – Yes
Main – No
Owen – Yes
Smith – No**

Mr. Bennett requested that any document that the Board is going to be asked to review at the April 21st meeting regarding the educational zip line at Little River Canyon be submitted to all Board members no later than March 21st.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SPORTS MEDICINE EDUCATION

Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, introduced Dr. John Hammett, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, to present a Memorandum of Understanding that Jacksonville State University and Andrews Research & Education Institute have entered into which promotes the JSU Sports Medicine Education Initiative. This program will bring together sports medicine experts and professional educators to develop and offer one or more basic, intermediate and advanced sports medicine education programs to high school coaches and administrators, youth sports coaches, administrators and parents. The goal is to develop and/or define standards of care and appropriate implementing protocols to help reduce or prevent the incidence of head related injuries, heat related injuries, over-training and overuse injuries in young athletes participating in school and organized sports.

The Board agreed that this was a good program and gave its support for the Memorandum of Understanding.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Randy Owen, Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee had a good meeting, but did not have any action items to present to the Board at this time.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Coxwell, Chairman of the Athletic Committee, stated that the Athletic Committee had no action items at this time.

BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ronnie Smith reported that the child care development facility formerly owned by Jacksonville State University has been sold. This was in completion of Resolution 548 which was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 28, 2013.

Mr. Smith presented the following Resolution for the Board's review and made a motion that it be approved:

RESOLUTION 558

WHEREAS, this Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining the infrastructure of the campus to support the delivery of quality educational programs and support services to the citizens of the State of Alabama and surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees are committed to the enhancement of the campus community and recognize the importance of the campus community experience to the growth of Jacksonville State University; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President to proceed with the installation of an HVAC system in the Pete Mathews Coliseum and modification of the ceiling in the gymnasium area. Bids for the project were opened January 15, 2014. The anticipated cost of the project is \$2,336,340 plus design fees. Of the total construction cost, \$117,340 was spent on an emergency basis for

HVAC needs in classroom space in the Coliseum leaving \$2,219,000 to be awarded to the apparent low bidder. Projects costs will be paid from internal funding.

Coming from the Building and Finance Committee the motion did not require a second. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Smith presented the 2012-13 Annual Financial Statement to the Board and explained that the report consists of unaudited financial statements that are presented to the State Examiners so they can conduct their audit. Ms. Allyson Barker, Acting Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs, stated that the auditors have reviewed the report and did not make any corrections. Mr. Smith stated that the document is presented as an information item and that no action was required from the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I. Capital Projects

Anders Hall (Round House) Phase II/Hammond Hall Restrooms

Dr. Meehan told the Board that this project adds much needed ADA compliant restroom facilities for both Hammond Hall and Anders Roundhouse. It was bid June 13, 2013 and awarded to Forsyth Building Company of Anniston, AL. The project was substantially completed in December with a few minor punchlist items remaining.

Coliseum HVAC Improvements

Dr. Meehan stated that Whorton Engineering opened bids January 15, 2014, for the air conditioning of Pete Mathews Coliseum. The previously approved budget was \$1,500,000 plus design fees, and the total anticipated construction cost is \$2,336,340 plus design fees.

Leone Cole/ Hopper Dining Hall

Dr. Meehan reported that the integrity of the shell for a 1960's model, hot water storage tank has passed its designed life span and is leaking badly. H & M Mechanical has provided an estimate of \$43,079 to remove the existing tank and install three new 200 gallon storage tanks in its place. The project will require four working days, during which time the cafeteria will have no hot water and be forced to discontinue operations. During this time, food services will be expanded at the Gamecock Diner to accommodate meal service, and late hours will be added to the Theron Montgomery Food Court. Work is scheduled to begin on January 28, 2014 and to be completed by January 31, 2014.

Softball Field Locker Room and Dugouts

Dr. Meehan stated that this project was bid on October 3, 2013 and Hale Building of Anniston was awarded the project. Work is scheduled for completion by February 7, 2014 before start of softball season.

Stephenson Hall Wellness Center

Dr. Meehan told the Board that Substantial Completion of the Stephenson Hall Wellness Center occurred on February 13, 2012 and the Year-End Inspection was held

February 23, 2013. On April 1, 2013, the contractor requested an arbitration hearing before the State Building Commission concerning his claims for additional compensation. That hearing was held Tuesday, September 10, 2013 and we are awaiting a final decision from the State Building Commission.

Stone Center

Dr. Meehan reported that at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday January 8th, a power outage was reported at Stone Center. The 1973 1600 amp main service breaker was tripped and could not be reset, leaving the entire facility without power. Classes scheduled for Thursday January 9th were canceled. Thanks to the efforts of JSU's Physical Plant staff, Acker Electric, Alabama Power and other partners power was restored Friday. We are grateful for the around the clock efforts of our JSU staff in correcting this outage.

II. University Update

A. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Dr. Meehan told the Board that Dr. Nuria Cuevas, SACSCOC's staff liaison for JSU, spent two days in January visiting various groups on campus in preparation for our reaffirmation of accreditation visit later this spring semester. Dr. Meehan stated that during the visit of our reaffirmation team members of the Board will be interviewed by our visitors and questioned about the self-study, the QEP, and the reaffirmation process. He called on Dr. Louise Clark, Co-Chair of the SACSCOC Compliance Certification Committee to give a brief review of what to expect for the remainder of this semester and stated that Ms. Gena Christopher and Mr. Mark Camp would explain our QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan). This will help the Board be ready to answer any questions the review team might have and assist us in being reaffirmed without exception in December 2014.

Dr. Clark told the Board that after our report was submitted to the Off-Site Review Committee we received a response from them in December asking for more information. We are now in the process of writing our Focused Report which will be presented to the On-Site Review Team during their visit April 8-10, 2014. She stated that some of the local members of the Board will be asked to meet with the On-Site Team in private.

Mr. Mark Camp presented a video explaining the Quality Enhancement Plan. He stated that there is a committee of thirty people working on ways to improve JSU. SACSCOC requires forward thinking and wants to know what we plan to do in the future to enhance JSU. One of the things we are doing is starting a Faculty Commons which will choose faculty mentors to receive a year of training. The idea is to make faculty members experts in learning centered design. Our primary focus will be on critical thinking skills and new teaching techniques to keep us up to date on the best methods for teaching. Ms. Gena Christopher stated that each Trustee member will receive a letter from her during March which explains in detail what the QEP process is and which of the

principals and the governing rules of the SACSCOC are relevant to the QEP. She encouraged them to contact her or any member of the QEP team with any questions they might have. She stated that the most important thing to remember is that Fast Forward means improving critical thinking and using 21st Century tools at JSU.

B. Strategic Enrollment Plan

Dr. Meehan reported that the enrollment plan which was mailed to the Board in December has begun to produce results. He indicated that the first sheet after this report under Tab 6 of the Trustees Binder indicates an overall 24% increase of new undergraduate applications over this time last year. First time freshman applications have increased by 21% and first time transfer applications have increased by 52%.

A number of new strategies are in place with our recruiting team for attracting new students. Included in these are: the expansion of the in-state residency tuition rate for out of state scholarship students which was approved at the July Board meeting; JSU's Presidential Transfer Scholarship program has been expanded to allow any student who completes an associate's degree from an Alabama Community College and has a 3.5 GPA to receive a tuition scholarship to JSU; also there will be no recommendation to this Board for a tuition increase for next academic year allowing students to plan for the remainder of this year and next year at the current tuition and fee rate.

A number of new initiatives have been introduced to retain students on campus. Changes in Housing both long term and short will help to retain students. Supplemental instruction for subjects that have traditional lower success rates, especially with high risk students, is now available through the Academic Success Center. STU 101 has been introduced to help retain first time freshmen and Grades First has been implemented across campus, as it had already proven successful with student athletes. Our plan has appropriate measures and benchmarks to reach our goal of 10,000 students by 2017 or sooner.

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Dr. Meehan called on Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, to give the Board an update on significant accomplishments within her division. Dr. Turner's full report was placed in the Trustees binder under Tab 6.

Dr. Turner introduced Dr. Joe Walsh, Associate Vice President for Educational Technology and Support, and welcomed him to JSU. Dr. Walsh replaced Dr. Frank King who retired as Associate Vice President for Distance Education. The unit was renamed to make it more expansive and to better reflect the mission of the department.

Dr. Turner stated that this is going to be a busy spring. In addition to the SACSCOC On-Site Review Team on campus April 8-10, the Communication Department is conducting a reaffirmation visit this week. The Chemistry Department

anticipates an initial accreditation visit from The American Chemical Society in May. Once that is achieved, all accreditations that are available for disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences will be complete, bringing us to almost 100% of all accreditations that are available for all disciplines campus wide. We have also recently received notice from NASPA that our MPA program is continuing to maintain its accreditation.

Dr. Turner stated that her report reflects that our faculty members are making lots of presentations, writing books and articles in journals and there is a lot of activity going on campus wide. She said that she and Dr. Meehan are currently reviewing portfolios for tenure and promotion, which always reminds them of how impressive our faculty is at JSU and how hard they work.

Dr. Meehan asked Mr. Randy Jones to comment on the recruiting event held at Guntersville State Park called ASK JSU. Mr. Jones stated that over 100 people attended the event and that approximately 80% of the students who attended are planning on enrolling at JSU. He stated that there was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm in the air and that this was a very positive event for JSU. He hopes to see us host the same type of event in other areas across the state. Dr. Meehan stated that we will be hosting these events in every Congressional district across the state and encouraged the Board to participate when an event is held in their area.

Athletics

Dr. Meehan recognized Mr. Warren Koegel, Director of Athletics, to provide a brief update on Spring Semester Sports. His full report was placed in the Trustees binder. Mr. Koegel thanked everyone for the care and support they showed him during his recent illness. He thanked the Athletic Committee, Coach Clark and his staff for a great football season. JSU beat Samford and McNeese State in playoff games before losing to Eastern Washington in the third round. The team finished ranked tenth in the country in FCS football. This gave us great exposure and helped with our recruiting efforts. Mr. Koegel introduced new Head Football Coach John Grass. Coach Grass stated that the foundation has been laid and he plans to continue what Coach Clark started with the team. We had fourteen prospective players here for a recruiting event last weekend and he is excited to get started with the team and looks forward to a great season.

Mr. Koegel thanked the Board for approving the Resolution to put a new HVAC system in the Coliseum. He also thanked Mr. Randy Owen for his donation to the assistant football coaches who stayed at JSU.

Mr. Koegel stated that the softball facility is beautiful and a lot safer than the old stadium. He invited the Board to attend Softball Fan Day on February 2nd from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Meehan thanked Dr. Alicia Simmons, Executive Director of Planning and Research, and her staff for their roles in acquiring an i3 Core Grant of \$11.5 million. Dr. Simmons stated that the grant went into effect January 1st; this starts the first of five years of the grant award. The money will be used to enhance the Core program through a research project that will help identify how well Core is making a difference in K-12 systems in terms of making students college and career ready, provide professional development, provide technology in the classrooms and help teachers understand how to use it, provide classroom support, provide 500 scholarships for dual enrollment students for the next three years that will be offered to high school students participating in this study. We will also be able to hire three dual enrollment advisors who will be housed in Admissions and will work with high school students in our area who are participating in dual enrollment. Twenty IT interns, a Faculty Commons Director and secretary will also be hired and will work with Planning and Research in providing professional development for the K-12 schools. Approximately ten positions will be filled with a portion of this grant money.

Dr. Simmons gave the Board copies of the 2013 Fact Book. She stated that our 2012 Fact Book was awarded first place in the Fact Book Competition by the Southern Association for Institutional Research and Assessment. Dr. Simmons thanked Ms. Kim Presson, Mr. John Rosier and Ms. Tienha Ma for all their hard work in producing the Fact Book.

University Advancement

Dr. Meehan recognized Dr. Charles Lewis, Vice President for University Advancement, and stated that Dr. Lewis' division had provided the Board with a copy of our Annual Report. He stated that Dr. Lewis' team had done a great job on this document and encouraged the Board to read it and share it with others. He asked Dr. Lewis to update the Board on a few activities within the JSU Foundation Inc. and the Advancement Division and stated that the full University Advancement report was located behind Tab 6 of the Trustees binder.

Dr. Lewis stated that we are still in the late planning stages and the early leadership gift phase of the capital campaign. He stated that at this point \$7,250,000 has been raised. He thanked Mr. Owen for the \$9,000 donation to athletics and scholarships, with a portion to go to the College of Commerce and Business Administration; this is in addition to the \$10,000 gift Mr. Owen made in April. Dr. Lewis thanked Mr. Jones for the \$50,000 pledge over the next two years that he and his wife gave for scholarships for students from Gadsden State and Snead State. Mr. and Mrs. Jones also made a commitment for a \$1,000,000 gift from their estate. Dr. Lewis also told the Board that Alabama Power and the Alabama Power Foundation recently made a \$300,000 donation to the Robotics program for Applied Engineering students.

Dr. Lewis told the Board that to date 59% of the faculty and staff has made commitments to the campaign totaling \$265,000 in outright gifts. When you include estate gifts it brings the total to \$638,000.

Dr. Lewis stated that 2013 was a successful year for fundraising. We posted a 19% increase in outright gifts, cash gifts and pledges over the year before. We were also up 19% in donors over the year before and in number of gifts we were up 17%. In addition, membership in the Alumni Association has increased 27% since 2011. He thanked Kaci Ogle and her staff for the great work they have done to achieve this.

Executive Session

Dr. Meehan presented a statement from Mr. Sam Monk, 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, Aye
 Mr. Thomas Dedrick, Aye
 Senator Vivian Davis Figures, Aye
 Mr. Randall Jones, Aye
 Mrs. Gale Saxon Main, Aye
 Mr. Randy Owen, Aye
 Mr. Ronnie Smith, Aye

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

Upon returning from Executive Session Mr. Bennett reported that there were no actions items to report.

There being no further business, Chairman Bennett declared that the meeting was adjourned and stated that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held at JSU's Little River Canyon Center on April 21, 2014.

Secretary

President Pro Tempore