

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016, 10:03 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:03 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System building in Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called in accordance with Act No. 2015-125.

**PRESIDING: MR. AL THOMPSON  
VICE PRESIDENT**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thompson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation by Dr. Robert Exley, President, Snead State Community College.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. Al Thompson  
Mr. Ron Fantroy  
Mrs. Susan Foy  
Mr. Frank Caldwell  
Mrs. Crystal Brown  
Mr. Milton Davis  
Mr. Chuck Smith  
Mr. Blake McAnally  
Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter (by phone)

Also present was Dr. Mark Heinrich, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Absent was Governor Robert Bentley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Mrs. Brown, the agenda was approved unanimously as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Caldwell, second by Mr. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting as presented.

**SECTION VI  
PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were seven individuals registered to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Those individuals were Mayor Gary Fuller, Ann Rye, T.C. Coley, Tom Lambert, Senator Bobby Singleton, Representative John Knight and Representative Laura Hall. Senator Singleton, Representative Knight and Representative Hall were not present.

Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller announced that he was a 2002 graduate of Southern Union State Community College. He introduced long time educator and Opelika City Council President Pro Tem Patsy Jones, Auburn City Council Mayor Pro Tem Ron Anders, Opelika City School Board member and Opelika Industrial Development Authority member Dr. Patsy Boyd Parker and former two term Mayor of Opelika and now Opelika Chamber of Commerce President Barbara Patton. Mayor Fuller reported that Phenix City Mayor Eddie Lowe could not be with them today but supports their position. Mayor Fuller stated the Board voted to merge Southern Union,

Chattahoochee Valley and Central Alabama. He said that mergers by nature are complicated, time consuming and often a complex undertaking but for some of us, it seems that this process is being rushed. He stated that it is obvious to him that the Opelika campus of Southern Union is the strongest, dominant campus of this new regional college. Size matters, facilities matter and results matter. He mentioned that 17 percent of the Auburn University 2014 transfer students were from Southern Union. He asked the Board to assert their influence and power to make a great decision. Mayor Fuller invited the Board to come to Opelika and the Opelika campus.

Alexander City Chamber of Commerce President Ann Rye stated that this is a hard decision and we realize that. She said she wanted to explain why this makes a really good business decision to make Alexander City the main campus and administrative office. First of all, the Chamber of Commerce established the Gateway to Education Fund thirteen years ago under the leadership of Susan Foy, one of your Trustees. Through its inception, it has been funded and continues to be funded at well over a million dollars. \$1.3 million dollars currently. We offer \$70,000 in tuition and fees to Benjamin Russell students to the community college on an annual basis. We also self-directed our own tourism tax dollars coming in to our community to the Gateway to Education Fund in the amount of upwards \$80,000 to support continuing education of our rural students. This funding not only comes from self-legislation and allocations from the state but also from the business community at large. It is solely funded, beside the taxation and tourism dollars, by business community. Our citizens will add \$5 to \$10 to their utility bills. They are passionate about education, the future and workforce. They know that students in the region that they serve don't have additional opportunities. And they know that because they do entry and exit interviews for their Gateway scholars. Many of these students fall within the mission of the community colleges. It is very important who you partner with. The second point is branding. We are working together as a region to attract business to the state. The marketing standpoint, the visual component of Alexander City and its central location and the region it serves. We are at the core and will extend our arms to that region within an hour. It makes sense financially for your administrators and for travel. And the third point is the facilities standpoint. There are opportunities currently on the table. Dr. Burrow has been made aware of these opportunities. They are timely. Your timeliness with opportunities that we have locally to provide you. Not only with facilities to accommodate you but with expansion opportunities and with opportunities to provide you a revenue stream by leasing out some of the additional space that you would not require. Student housing opportunities. A true campus. I paint a vision of not just stability, but growth. Our goal with you is to turn out students who have jobs. We have a common mission. Relocating the administrative offices to Alexander City makes good sense for those three reasons.

Tallapoosa County Commissioner T. C. Coley stated that we as a community feel very strongly about the opportunity to be the home of the administrative headquarters for this new regional college. As many of you know Alexander City for over 100 years has been the home of the world's largest manufacturer of team athletic apparel. Over the last several years, we have undergone a lot of change, a lot of transitions. In many ways, Central Alabama Community College as it is now, has been and continues to be a part of that transition. Our community is in the process of reinventing ourselves. We are looking into establishing a new identity. Not only as the gateway to Lake Martin, but we would also like to have as a part of our identity the home of the administrative headquarters of this new two-year college. Also as part of these relationships in this transition for our community has been the role that the facility, as it is, plays within our community. It not just a matter saying we have the facilities here but we believe these facilities and relationship we have with our community college are a role model for other campuses. We are not the biggest. We don't have a large student population. We feel we have the right type of community. A community where this administrative facility will not be seen as one of many jewels in a crown, but it will be seen as the jewel in the crown. A critical facility. A facility that we have had great partnerships along the years. An institution that we support. We talked about the Gateway Foundation and what we have done in terms to developing that to increase the number the students going to the facility and a way to help bolstered our economic development. Our support of the college's athletic programs in the past. We are a very strong community. We support our people. We support our community.

President and CEO of Russell Lands Tom Lamberth stated that he was appealing to this Board to make the decision to locate the main campus of the new regional college in Alexander City. He said Alex City is an ideal location for the main campus because it is the most centrally located of those locations being considered in the eleven county area being served by the new regional college. Our support for CACC has been strong since its inception. It will continue to be strong in the future, even more so if the main campus is located in Alex City. Importantly, we consider our relationship with the 2-year college to be one of the keys to our economic development. I feel that the decision to locate the main campus of the new regional community college here could be a defining moment for Alexander City. If your goal as a Board is to locate the main campus in a community where it would have the greatest positive impact, I strongly feel that the decision should be Alexander City.

Mr. Thompson thanked everyone who had comments today. He said we appreciate very much your interest in the issues that come before the Board.

**SECTION VII**  
**(INSTRUCTIONAL AND STUDENT SERVICES, FACILITIES, FISCAL, INFORMATION**  
**TECHNOLOGY, ADULT EDUCATION, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)**

**ADOPTED**

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Mr. Fantroy, the Board voted unanimously approved the following two items:

**BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PURCHASE COMPUTERS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES**

The Board authorized Bevill State Community College to purchase computers for instructional and administrative purposes. This purchase must be completed no later than September 30, 2016, or this authorization will expire. Fiscal consideration: \$199,937.60 – Current Unrestricted Fund.

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**  
**2016-17 INSTRUCTIONAL SITE REQUESTS/TERMINATIONS**

The Board approved instructional sites for the Alabama Community College System for the academic year 2016-17. Fiscal consideration: The operation of these sites proposed is within the budgets of the two-year colleges. The Colleges shall provide annual follow-up reports for all instructional sites.

**SECTION VIII**  
**(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

**ADOPTED**

On motion by Mr. Fantroy, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board voted unanimously approved the following two items:

**ALABAMA SOUTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, JEFFERSON DAVIS**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FAULKNER STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CONSOLIDATE**

The Board approved the Statement of Intent to Consolidate Alabama Southern Community College, Jefferson Davis Community College and Faulkner State Community College. Fiscal Consideration: Cost savings by redistribution of resources from duplicative administrative functions, courses, and student activities.

**CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SOUTHERN UNION STATE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CONSOLIDATE**

The Board approved the Statement of Intent to Consolidate Central Alabama Community College, Chattahoochee Valley Community College and Southern Union State Community College. Fiscal Consideration: Cost savings by redistribution of resources from duplicative administrative functions, courses, and student activities.

Mr. Thompson complemented Ms. Susan Price on her exceptional job in laying out the consolidation process. He mentioned that the PowerPoint Ms. Price used in her presentation last month would be available on the accs.cc website.

Chancellor Heinrich informed the Board that he had received formal notification from Dr. Helen T. McAlpine of her intent to retire, effective May 31, 2016. He stated that there was no Board action necessary. Mr. Thompson asked the Parliamentarian, Mr. David O'Brien, if there was a need for Board action. Mr. O'Brien confirmed that there was no need for Board action.

**SECTION IX  
(CHANCELLOR'S REPORT)**

Chancellor Heinrich mention that the lilies in front of where the Trustees were sitting were grown at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville by the Agricultural/Horticulture Program students and staff. He complemented Dr. Vicki Karolewics, Wallace Hanceville staff and students on the beautiful lilies.

Chancellor Heinrich introduced Toni White – Adult Education Specialist, Wendy Roberts – Adult Education Specialist, Art Rousseau – Temporary Assistant Director of Career and Technical Programs, and Diana Williams – Administrative Assistant for the Fiscal Division.

Due to the illness of Dr. Nakia Robinson, Interim Associate Director of Transition Education, the Developmental Education Update was moved to the April 13, 2016, Board meeting.

Chancellor Heinrich called Mr. Jimmy Baker to the podium for a legislative update. Mr. Baker mentioned the Budget bill that the Board, copies of which the Board had received. He stated that the bill contained a 4 percent pay raise in the Education budget. He said that he thought that would stay in the Budget bill.

Mr. Baker asked Ms. Annette Funderburk to brief the Board. Ms. Funderburk thanked the Trustees for sending letters of support to both chairpersons of the Senate and House Committees. They appreciated receiving the letters. The Senate bill will be in committee today at 12:30 p.m. Senator Brewbaker had a public hearing on the bill last week where Chancellor Heinrich and Dr. Klauber from Calhoun Community College spoke in our favor. There has been some concerns about Students First. We have had some discussions about being out from under the Students First Act. There will be a substitute offered today. Senator Trip Pittman, sponsor of the bill, will offer a substitute in that regard. Tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m. the House companion bill to our Board bill will be up in the House Education Policy Committee under Representative Collins' direction. It also had a public hearing last week where Chancellor Heinrich and Dr. Klauber spoke on your behalf and shared your support. There again a substitute will be offered in support of changing the Students First section. Today at 1:00 p.m. on the House floor will be the

Budget. It is up on the Special Order and if they approve that Special Order, House Bill 117 will be first.

Chancellor Heinrich talked about the policy and policy development. The Board Policy Subcommittee chaired by Ron Fantroy, with members Susan Foy and Crystal Brown. We have been working on policy review before this Board was seated. We worked very closely with experts with Auburn Montgomery. We worked with committees across the System and state. We have invested many hours into this process before this Board was seated. Since then the Policy Committee was appointed by our Vice President. They have been very involved in the evaluation of current policies. One of the areas we focused on was discussing and updating each other on past policies. They were well aware of the past foundational work. We had discussions on current System needs. We established some timelines for discussing and approving Board policies. The discussion of the policies have been most robust as they relate to a number of important areas. Certainly number one would be policies impacting the new Board and the Board change. Secondly policies that directly impact SACSCOC and other accreditors. The third area were policies that directly impact consolidations and those consolidations in process. Fourthly, we have some of the old policies that are clearly outdated. We would expect that a good number of those would be deleted and replaced by those that make more sense. Policy Committee Chair Ron Fantroy will lead the Board in a policies discussion during the Work Session this afternoon. We may move to approve some policies next month if the Board is comfortable with those.

You are all well aware that a mini-retreat is scheduled next month. It will be an extended Work Session from 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. We will have more time to discuss this important area and Workforce.

**SECTION X**  
**(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)**

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System building in Montgomery, Alabama. A work session will follow at 1:00 p.m. in the Presidents Conference Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Davis, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

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Vice President

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Chancellor