

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2020, 10:05 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, via video/teleconference. The meeting was called in accordance with Act No. 2015-125 and conducted in accordance with Governor Ivey's Proclamation of March 18, 2020.

**PRESIDING: MR. AL THOMPSON
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thompson.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Jim Stegall of Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. Al Thompson
Ms. Crystal Brown
Mr. Milton Davis
Ms. Susan Foy
Mr. Blake McAnally
Mr. John Mitchell
Mr. Chuck Smith

Also present was Mr. Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Absent were Governor Kay Ivey, Mr. Matthew Woods and Mr. Jeff Newman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Ms. Brown the Agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no individuals registered to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

SECTION VII
(ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS, ADULT EDUCATION, FACILITIES, FISCAL,
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)

ADOPTED

The following five Refunding Resolutions were approved jointly as set out below.

Mr. McAnally advised that the finance committee had reviewed the refunding action items extensively, supports them and recommends the approval of each. The refunding will result in an overall savings in excess of \$4.5 million dollars.

Mr. O'Brien stated that it was in order for all the refunding action items be approved collectively.

Ms. Brown thanked the finance committee for continuously looking for ways to save money and be fiscally responsible.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REFUNDING FOR AUTHORIZED RESOLUTION, BOND SERIES 2009

On motion by Mr. McAnally, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution refunding \$5,350,000 in limited obligation Alabama Community College System revenue bonds, Series 2009 for the benefit of Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REFUNDING FOR AUTHORIZED RESOLUTION, BOND SERIES 2009

On motion by Mr. McAnally, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution refunding \$2,820,000 in limited obligation Alabama Community College System revenue bonds, Series 2007 for the benefit of Lawson State Community College.

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REFUNDING FOR AUTHORIZED RESOLUTION, BOND SERIES 2011

On motion by Mr. McAnally, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution refunding \$4,130,000 in limited obligation Alabama Community College System revenue bonds, Series 20011 for the benefit of Enterprise State Community College.

H. TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REFUNDING FOR AUTHORIZED RESOLUTION, BOND SERIES 1995 AND 2010

On motion by Mr. McAnally, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution refunding \$4,295,000 in limited obligation Alabama Community College System revenue bonds, Series 1995 and 2010 for the benefit of Trenholm State Community College.

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REFUNDING FOR AUTHORIZED RESOLUTION, BOND SERIES 2005, 2009 AND 2011

On motion by Mr. McAnally, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the Authorizing Resolution refunding \$6,910,000 in limited obligation Alabama Community College System revenue bonds, Series 2005, 2009 and 2011 for the benefit of Coastal Alabama Community College.

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
ALLOCATION OF THE 2020-2021 TWO-YEAR COLLEGE SYSTEM AND PRISON
EDUCATION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE APPROPRIATION

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Ms. Foy, the Board unanimously approved the allocation of the 2020-2021 Education Trust Fund appropriation for operations and maintenance of the two-year colleges and the prison education appropriation Fiscal Consideration: \$351,439,161.

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
2020-2021 ACCS SALARY SCHEDULES

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved 2020-2021 ACCS Salary Schedules for the community and technical colleges and the Alabama Technology Network. Fiscal Consideration: None.

Mr. McAnally pointed out that these are the same rates as last year and that no increase had been approved by the legislature.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

H. COUNCIL TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOOKSTORE OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ECAMPUS ONLINE

On motion by Ms. Brown, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board unanimously authorized the Interim President of Trenholm State Community College to execute an online Bookstore Operation Agreement with A Book Company LLC d/b/a eCampus.com.

Mr. McAnally advised this is a trend across the system and these type agreements are beneficial and cost effective for the Colleges.

SECTION IX
PERSONNEL

Chancellor Baker asked Chairman Thompson to consider and accept the letters of retirement from Dr. Perry Ward and Dr. Martha Lavender.

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously accepted the letter of retirement from Dr. Perry Ward, President of Lawson State Community College effective August 31, 2020.

On motion by Mr. McAnally , second by Ms. Brown , the Board unanimously accepted the letter of retirement from Dr. Martha Lavender, President of Gadsden State Community College effective August 31, 2020.

Chancellor Baker commented that Lawson State has benefited greatly from Dr. Ward's leadership for more than 30 years and announced that Dr. Cynthia Anthony will be appointed as Interim President effective September 1, 2020. Chancellor Baker stated that Dr. Anthony is no stranger to being interim as she has served in 3 other schools and does a tremendous job wherever she serves.

Chancellor Baker advised that an interim president for Gadsden State will be appointed soon. The Dean that would normally have filled in as interim is also retiring at same time as Dr. Lavender.

Chancellor Baker commented that both Dr. Ward and Dr. Lavender have been tremendous assets to the system and plans to honor them both properly in the future.

Chancellor Baker advised that the system has several presidential vacancies. The Shelton State vacancy has been posted and Chancellor Baker has met with the search committee. The search committee for Gadsden State is still being formed. Chancellor Baker expressed his plan to move quickly to fill these vacancies.

Chancellor Baker also advised that contracts for Dr. Exley, President of Snead State, and Dr. Susan Burrow, President at Central Alabama, expire on August 31, 2020. Chancellor Baker has appointed Snead State CFO, Joe Whitmore as Interim President at Snead State who is doing a

good job. Jeff Lynn is serving as Interim President at Central Alabama and doing a tremendous job building community support. Chancellor Baker commented that there is a lot to be done at both Snead State and Central Alabama. Chancellor Baker will be looking to the Board members for assistance in selecting permanent presidents for these colleges.

Chancellor Baker advised that Chris Cox is serving as Interim President at LBW and that the community has responded well to Mr. Cox and has been beneficial in mapping out a plan for that college.

Chancellor Baker advised that Bryan Helms is currently at Shelton State, but will be back to the system office as soon as a permanent president is hired. Mr. Helms is needed at the system office to maintain financial stability over schools.

Chancellor Baker commented that Dr. Joe Burke has been a blessing at Calhoun as Interim President. Plans for a permanent president will be forthcoming in the immediate future.

Chancellor Baker advised that Anita Archie is the Interim President at Trenholm State. He advised that Trenholm is moving forward, but that there are going to be some rough times as there are some tough decisions to be made to continue to move the college forward so that it is where it needs to be by 2030.

Chancellor Baker commented that Reid State is another college with an interim president. Due to the size of the school, carrying the overhead costs are a burden to the school. Chancellor Baker advised that there will be conversations about plans for Reid State in the immediate future.

Chancellor Baker advised that filling this many vacancies is a daunting task and that he appreciates the Board's support, patience and efforts. Each position requires a 30 day posting and the applicants tend to be all the same for each position. Chancellor Baker is looking for the right candidates to fill the positions that can continue the already established leadership that is present at the colleges.

Chairman Thompson commented that Chancellor Baker can count on the Board's support throughout the search processes and that the Board is confident in Chancellor Baker's leadership.

SECTION X
COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

SECTION IX

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Baker asked Susan Price to speak about the opening of the Colleges. Ms. Price stated that ACCS colleges are in the same boat that most colleges across the country are finding themselves in and that being a soft fall in terms of enrollment. Ms. Price advised that registration is being closely monitored and recruiting and outreach is ongoing to let everyone know that ACCS colleges are open for business. Ms. Price advised that numbers will be lower for the Fall semester. All colleges have submitted and received approval of their operating plans and safety protocol. Ms. Price advised that the majority of academic classes are online, but that any courses that require hands on learning will be offered onsite under strict safety protocols. All on campus instruction will end at Thanksgiving and if any require extension beyond Thanksgiving it will be taught virtually, including exams. The plan is to be off campus during the beginning of flu season. Ms. Price commented that the colleges are ready for returning and new students and that the colleges are receiving a lot of interest from students of four year institutions who would like to take courses online at ACCS institutions. A new marketing campaign is in the works and will launch in fall for spring recruitment. Ms. Price commented that ACCS is looking forward to a robust spring.

Mr. Davis asked how the Fall semester numbers compare to normal years. Ms. Price advised that fall head count for 2019 was 79,938 and 2020 it is 55,981; credit hours for 2019 were 757,146 and for 2020 they are 552,185; and FTE for 2019 was 50,477 and 36,812 for 2019. Ms. Price advised that the preliminary numbers reflect the total number of registrants, not the number people who have paid. Ms. Price advised that she is expecting those students that are on the fence to register later.

Chancellor Baker spoke about the CARES Act Funds that were allocated to ACCS and Colleges and advised that Sara Calhoun is responsible for riding herd over all the funds. Ms. Calhoun has worked with the schools to make sure the money was managed properly and that no money has to be sent back. Chancellor Baker anticipates having to rush to utilize the money and he will work with the finance committee to make sure that all the funds are used to benefit the system and students.

Sarah Calhoun addressed the Board members. She advised that the funds came quickly and will expire quickly. The Colleges have responded quickly with their plans for the funds. In the first round, ACCS institutions received just under 28 million dollars that went direct to students in cash awards for the recovery of outlay during the spring Covid impact. The second round of funds was again just under 28 million dollars and were utilized for the Colleges to recover efforts and expand distance learning for the continuation of spring and for planning for summer and fall Covid impact. The Colleges are using these dollars wisely to benefit current and future students. The third round of funds are directly for the HBCU colleges and Strengthening First Program. No college received less than ½ million dollars. In total ACCS colleges received approximately 79 million dollars which will be used to propagate the mission of ACCS. Ms. Calhoun states the

timeline for the expiration of funds is 12 months from the date the College requested the funds, although she hopes that timeline will be extended. Right now, Ms. Calhoun is working with an expectation of the funds expiring in March, April and May of 2021. The fourth round of CARES funds will come through the State for 8.7 million dollars for a public health initiative. These funds have been awarded but not received yet. Ms. Calhoun advised that ACCS is also working with the State to obtain education advancement funds and to date a dollar amount has not been determined. These funds will go directly to benefit the schools.

Mr. McAnally said that the finance committee stands prepared to help and that funding will also have to meet the state bid requirements. Mr. McAnally hopes that the deadlines are extended but advised that a special meeting may have to be called to address requests relating to these funds so that no funds are lost.

SECTION XII

(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. The format has yet to be determined and will be announced later. A work session will follow at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Thompson recognized Ms. Brown for receiving an award from the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama as the Chamber Professional of Year. This was the first time the award has been given someone not a President, CEO or Executive Director.

Chancellor Baker stated that he enjoys working with Ms. Brown and commented that Ms. Brown carries tremendous respect in the community that she serves. Chancellor Baker advised that all members of the Board are well respected.

Chancellor Baker advised that the ACCS was being recognized nationally as a model system for community colleges by the National Governor's Association. Chancellor Baker takes pride in the ACCS and that the system has a lot of good presidents and employees that are doing a tremendous job in leading education efforts for students.

Mr. Davis congratulated the retiring presidents and wished them both the best.

Ms. Foy commented that while she is sad to see Dr. Ward and Dr. Lavender retire she wishes them well.

ADJOURNMENT

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The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor