

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2021, 10:00 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 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 Dr. Gary Blair, Pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Montgomery, Al. 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. Matthew Woods
Mr. Blake McAnally
Mr. John Mitchell
Mr. Chuck Smith

Also present was Mr. Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Absent was Governor Kay Ivey.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The Board declined by a vote of 5 to 3 the motion to approve the agenda as proposed.

Prior to voting, Chancellor Baker commented that there needed to be considerable discussion regarding Action Item VII.A.1 – West Alabama Regional Training Center. Chancellor Baker advised that the funding from ACCS for this project is very restrictive and can only be spent for certain things. Chancellor Baker has not done a detailed review of the whole project as revised since it was first presented. Chancellor Baker stated that he did not want to delay the project, but should this item move forward there would need to be a second internal review and full report to the Board to make sure that the standards are met and an evaluation of how to reduce the cost of the project. Chancellor Baker advised that there was still a lot of work to be done before moving forward with project. Chancellor Baker indicated that he needed to look at the overall scope of the project to make sure the funds that are being used are in compliance.

Chairman Thompson thanked Chancellor Baker for his comments and went on to explain that this project was first introduced at the Work Session in November 2020. Since then, there has been an expansion in scope and cost. Chairman Thompson feels that it would be a good idea for the Board to be provided with additional information and to be given more time to review and consider the expanded scope.

Mr. Davis asked that Ed Whatley give the Board detailed review of the expansion in scope.

On motion by Mr. McAnally, second by Mr. Mitchell, the Board voted to adopt an Amended Agenda removing item VII.A.1 from the Board meeting agenda and placing it on the Work Session Agenda. The Board voted 7 yes to 1 no to adopt the amended agenda.

Chairman Thompson commented that this amendment to the agenda was done to be fair to the Board so that they will be well informed and have time to consider prior to voting on the West Alabama Regional Training Facility item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Brown, second by Mr. Davis, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the January 13, 2021 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)

None.

SECTION VIII (EXECUTIVE, LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. McNally, the Board unanimously approved the Legislative Agenda for the Alabama Community College System for the 2021 Alabama Legislative Session(s).

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
PROFESSIONAL LEGAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Mr. David O'Brien updated the Board on the final quote for the Professional Legal Liability insurance and advised that the increase in the premium amount was a result of the current market environment due to the pandemic.

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously authorized and directed each college and Alabama Technology Network (ATN) to purchase Professional Legal Liability Insurance coverage through Cobbs, Allen & Hall Insurance for the coverage period March 1, 2021, to March 1, 2022.

SECTION IX
PERSONNEL

Chancellor Baker made a recommendation that Mr. Jeff Lynn be appointed as permanent president at Central Alabama Community College. Chancellor Baker advised that the committee had gone through the search process and had three excellent interviews.

Ms. Foy commented that there were three really good candidates that were interviewed for the position.

Nikita Payne gave a brief overview of Mr. Lynn's qualifications. Mr. Lynn was hired at ACCS on October 1, 2016. Mr. Lynn has over 20 years of Workforce and Economic Development experience across several southeastern states. Prior to his role at the ACCS, Mr. Lynn served as the Executive Director of Workforce Development Programs (LED FastStart) for Louisiana Economic Development. Mr. Lynn moved to Louisiana in November 2008 from Georgia where he performed in a similar role in State Workforce Development Leadership. While working with the Georgia Workforce Program, Mr. Lynn built a program that maintained a number 1 or number 2 national ranking for a decade. Mr. Lynn has also held positions in advanced manufacturing, supply chain and ERP projects. Mr. Lynn began his career while in college, working full-time in manufacturing and the hospitality industry while studying Organizational Management from Auburn University. Mr. Lynn later served as the Head of ASMT Training Systems for Ciba Vision Corporation. Mr. Lynn was appointed in August 2017 to serve on the Alabama Workforce Council and he co-chaired the Statewide Economic Attainment Committee.

Chancellor Baker commented that he had received numerous positive phone calls from area people to commend Mr. Lynn for the good things that are happening at Central Alabama Community College.

Each of the Board members took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lynn and commend him for his hard work while at ACCS system office and as Interim President at Central Alabama Community College.

On motion by Ms. Foy, second by Mr. Woods, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Jeff Lynn as President of Central Alabama Community College effective March 1, 2021.

Mr. Lynn thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as President at Central Alabama Community College. Mr. Lynn expressed that that he is happy and humbled to serve the students, employees, and community of Central Alabama Community College.

SECTION X **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Boone Kinard gave update on the status of the legislative session.

The Bill which would transfer community college construction design and management from the state's Division of Construction Management to the ACCS Board of Trustees, was pre-filed and a public hearing was scheduled for February 10, 2021. Mr. Kinard stated that there were several speakers lined up on behalf of ACCS.

Mr. Kinard advised that the ACCS is still working with AEA to resolve issues relating to tenure and Student's First Act. No bill had been introduced at the time of the Board meeting.

Mr. Kinard advised that Senator Marsh had introduced a comprehensive gambling proposal that will most likely be the vehicle for this issue. Senator Marsh's proposal is a full scale lottery bill, including gambling, casinos, and a lottery. It was expected to be in the Senate Committee on February 10, 2021.

Mr. Kinard stated that Senator Marsh had also introduced a bill to expand broadband access. Mr. Kinard reported that C-spire is committed to putting forth a substantial investment over the next few years to make broadband more accessible and that Senator Marsh is interested in talking with ACCS regarding the broadband project.

Mr. Kinard reported that Governor Ivey had released her General and Education Fund Budgets. The proposed Education Budget funds a vast majority of the items approved by the Board on the legislative agenda, specifically a 6% across the board increase in O&M, funding for a 2% pay raise that would include community college employees, \$3 million dollars for dual enrollment

scholarships to be able to keep up with the demand across the system, new money for correctional education services, and the full asked of \$10 million dollars for short term certification and credentialing. Mr. Kinard commented that public access at the legislature is very different this year due to Covid-19, but that ACCS is finding new ways to keep in touch and will continue to monitor things. Mr. Kinard stated that he was pleased with how the session had gone so far.

Chancellor Baker reported that he had been in conversation with Cam Ward, the new Director of Pardons & Paroles. Chancellor Baker advised that Life Tech will be reestablished after some work is done to the facility and that the General Fund Budget will be contributing money to Life Tech in addition to the ACCS funding.

SECTION XI **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Milton Davis reported that Chancellor Baker's performance review was performed in December 2020 utilizing the customary process. The Board's collective evaluation of Chancellor Baker was exceptional with a composite score of 4.82. Mr. Davis commented that the Board has complete confidence in Chancellor Baker's abilities to lead ACCS.

Mr. Davis read comments by a Board Member who opined that Chancellor Baker had done an exceptional job given the unique challenges 2020 presented. While it would have been easy to let ongoing plans and initiatives take a back seat, Chancellor Baker has pushed forward and introduced several new ambitious projects including the implementation of Banner at remaining colleges, enhanced marketing efforts, building and renovations projects, the hiring of several full-time presidents, and the introduction and revision of key Board policies. The Board member went on to say that once Board meetings were moved to a virtual format, the Chancellor remained an effective communicator and is pleased with Chancellor Baker's response to the Covid-19 challenges. The Trustee stated that thanks to Chancellor Baker's leadership students will have a great opportunity for success and the ACCS will be well positioned as we enter 2021. Mr. Davis thanked fellow trustees for their evaluation and promised that the 20 page tool used for the Chancellor's evaluation would be revised by the end of 2021 to make it more succinct and easier to use.

Chairman Thompson thanked the personnel committee for their service and leadership and congratulated Chancellor Baker on his evaluation.

Prior to adjournment, Chairman Thompson read the Conflict of Interest statement that all Board of Trustee members are required to sign upon taking their Oath of Office.

SECTION XII

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(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. The format has yet to be determined and will be announced later. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:39.

Chairman

Chancellor