

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 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, April 14, 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 Mr. Blake McAnally and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Crystal Brown.

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  
Dr. Yvette Richardson

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Thompson advised that the April 14, 2021 would be the last Board meeting for four members. Mr. Davis made a motion to amend the agenda to allow remarks by the outgoing members. The Motion was seconded by Mr. McAnally. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the amended agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Davis, second by Mr. Woods, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the March 10, 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**

**ADOPTED**

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

**SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN**

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Mr. Davis, the Board unanimously approved Shelton State Community College's application for an Associate in Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician, to be implemented Fall Semester 2021.

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM  
TUITION RATE AND TUITION REVENUE**

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board unanimously authorized a modification of the \$10 tuition rate increase, implemented in Fall 2018, from a per credit hour *tuition fee* collection to a per credit hour *ACCS Enhancements Fee*.

Mr. McAnally advised that the Finance Committee had reviewed this action item and gives its recommendation to move forward.

**WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE -HANCEVILLE  
APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASE EXPENDITURE RELATED TO ALAMAP  
PROJECT**

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the expenditure of State of Alabama Special Populations funds in the amount of \$608,130 for capitalized equipment to support the expansion of apprenticeships through the ALAMAP Project.

**SECTION VIII  
PERSONNEL**

Chancellor Baker announced that Jeff Rhodes, Interim President of Reid State Technical College, is retiring. Chancellor Baker commended Mr. Rhodes for his service at Reid State.

Chancellor Baker credited Mr. Rhodes for keeping the school alive during his tenure as Interim President as Reid State was in a poor financial position when he took over. Mr. Rhodes worked hard to make Reid State a better school.

Mr. Rhodes thanked Chancellor Baker for his comments and expressed that he is honored and blessed to have served as Interim President of Reid State. Mr. Rhodes commented that during his 20 years of employment with the ACCS, he has learned that if you desire for everyone and everything around you to be successful that you will also be successful. Mr. Rhodes thanked the faculty and staff at Reid State for their help during his time as Interim President. Mr. Rhodes advised that at present, Reid State is on a solid foundation, that facilities are in good shape and will be better once current projects are completed. Mr. Rhodes thanked the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Baker for the opportunity to serve as Interim President and stated that it had meant a great deal to the college, the community and Mr. Rhodes family. Mr. Rhodes closed by quoting "Leadership is not about me being the best but about everyone else being better."

Chancellor Baker advised that Mr. Rhodes had done a good job in preparing other people to step into his place and following that comment Chancellor Baker recommended that Dr. Coretta Boykin be appointed as permanent President at Reid State Technical College. On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Davis, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Coretta Boykin as President at Reid State Technical College.

Dr. Boykin addressed Chancellor Baker and the Board of Trustees. Dr. Boykin commented that she is truly honored to serve in the role as President of Reid State. She stated that she has had great people to lead and guide her while she has been at Reid State, including Mr. Rhodes who has been a blessing to Dr. Boykin and her family. Dr. Boykin advised the Board that she is humbled, grateful, and honored for the opportunity and looks forward to moving the college to greater levels, to strengthening partnerships within the communities, to expanding workforce development opportunities and to helping the community reach new heights. Dr. Boykin introduced her family that were in attendance which included her husband, three daughters, mother, and grandmother.

Nikita Payne summarized Dr. Boykin's experience. Dr. Boykin has 18 years of experience in post-secondary education. Dr. Boykin most recently served as Dean of Instruction and Workforce Development, as well as serving as second in command at Reid State. Dr. Boykin has also served as Director of Recruitment and Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness at Reid State. Dr. Boykin is actively involved in numerous professional organizations, local education committees and volunteer institutions. Dr. Boykin is a lifetime resident of Evergreen, Alabama. Dr. Boykin received her Bachelors from the University of Alabama, Master's Degree from Troy University, and her Ph. D in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama. Dr. Boykin is married to Tyrone Boykin and they have 3 daughters.

Chancellor Baker added that Dr. Boykin is still on the local Board of Education and serves as Chair. Chancellor Baker stated that he is excited to have a community person who is ready to take the job as President of Reid State.

Nikita Payne gave a brief overview of Mr. Rhodes career with the Alabama Community College system. Mr. David Jeff Rhodes began his career at Reid State in 2001 as the Business Manager. Under Mr. Rhodes leadership as Business Manager, he oversaw the Business Office and Security and Maintenance. In 2015 Mr. Rhodes was placed on temporary assignment as Acting President at Reid State. In January 2016, Mr. Rhodes' title changed to Interim President. Ms. Payne commented that Mr. Rhodes has a passion for seeing students succeed and should be commended for his commitment to having a well trained workforce that is needed by local business and industry. Prior to joining Reid State, Mr. Rhodes worked 11 years in the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts Education Division. Mr. Rhodes submitted his letter of retirement on 3/2/21 to Chancellor Baker and is effective as of 4/30/21.

#### **SECTION IX** **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Boone Kinard gave an update on the status of the legislative session. As of April 13, 2021, the legislature had completed 22 of 30 total days allowed for the session. Mr. Kinard advised that the session has been busy to date and will be even busier as the final days of the session draw near. The last possible day for the legislature to meet is 5/17/21. Mr. Kinard commented that this session had been unlike any he had ever seen due to the Covid pandemic. Access to State House has been limited. Advocacy with the legislators has worked very differently in this session. Whereas, before public access was open in the State House, now meetings with the legislators are by appointment only. Committee attendance and meetings have been limited. Deliberation in both the House and Senate has had to be viewed via live stream. Mr. Kinard stated that these changes have made it a different experience in trying to work through the various issues in the legislature; however, despite the changes, the session has been effective. Mr. Kinard advised that Governor Ivey had recommended a very favorable budget to ACCS, which included key investments in Operations and Maintenance, Dual Enrollment, short term Workforce Development programs and Prison Education. The education budget passed the Senate with those increases intact. Mr. Kinard has been working hard with Chairman Poole and other leadership in the House to advocate and maintain those budget levels passed by the Senate. Mr. Kinard expects the House to take up budget during the week of April 19, 2021 in committee and expects it to be on floor of the House the week on April 26, 2021.

Another issue ACCS has been focused on is supporting legislation that would move oversight of construction management projects for educational entities from the State Division of Construction Management, which is part of the State Finance Department, to the governing boards of each educational entity, and in the case of ACCS the authority would fall to the Board

of Trustees. Mr. Kinard advised that ACCS had started work on this issue before session. As seen in previous projects, Mr. Kinard advised that once a project goes to the Division of Construction Management there are cost increases, time delays and project scope increases. This legislation would allow the Board to more effectively manage the construction process. Mr. Kinard advised that the bill had passed in the House of Representatives as well as the Senate Committee and awaits final consideration by the full Senate.

Mr. Kinard updated the Board on another key issue, the gaming and lottery bills. The session began with a comprehensive gaming proposal which was voted down, then moved to a lottery only bill and is now back to a comprehensive gaming bill. The Senate passed the package of bills that would create a statewide lottery, as well as various other gaming across the state including casinos and other forms of gambling. Mr. Kinard advised that there is a component to the bill that would be used for postsecondary scholarships. Mr. Kinard is reviewing the language of the bill to see how specific it is toward community colleges. As the bill goes to the House, ACCS will be working with the legislators to clarify the bill so that ACCS receives a portion of the proceeds for scholarships for community college students. The House still must consider the bill in the short time remaining in the current session.

Chancellor Baker advised that ACCS has been working on an improved method of operation to make the schools more effective in recruiting and retention and asked Olivier Charles for an update. Mr. Charles thanked the Board for their time. Mr. Charles opened his update by stating that he is proud of where ACCS is going in terms of enrollment management and advised that ACCS is working to improve the culture of enrollment management across all 24 colleges in the system. A kickoff meeting was held on April 13, 2021 with the selected vendor. Mr. Charles believes that there is no better platform than the one ACCS selected. Northwest-Shoals Community College has been selected as the pilot college and will go through the process for implementation first. Mr. Charles stated Dr. Colagross is excited that Northwest Shoals was selected to be the pilot college. Mr. Charles anticipates that implementation will begin in May and go through the first week of August. Mr. Charles advised that the colleges will be broken into 6 regions and that town hall meetings will be scheduled to allow questions and conversations about this new program so that no one is overwhelmed. Implementation will begin at the other colleges a few weeks after Northwest Shoals. There will be a pause in implementation from mid-July to mid-August as new students are on campus and the colleges need to be able to serve the students without interruption. Implementation will be done in two phases. Phase 1 will be admissions, recruitment, advancement, alumni, engagement, and workforce development and will hopefully be completed at most of the colleges by October 1, 2021. Phase 2 will be advisement and retention. Mr. Charles advised that the focus will be on the front facing product first with the intent to get students through the door and then begin with the advising and retention portion. ACCS' goal is that by Spring 2022 all 24 colleges will have both phases of the product and be 100% implemented. Mr. Charles thanked Neil Scott and Ben Rosebrock and their teams for the hard work they have put into the project. Mr. Charles commented that this new software, along with Banner, will allow ACCS to see the life cycle of

the student and believes it will be a game changer for the system. ACCS is focused on improving enrollment of credit and non-credit courses across the state and Mr. Charles believes that this new program will give the colleges a tool to improve enrollment.

**SECTION X**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**SECTION XI**  
**REMARKS BY OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Thompson advised that it is last meeting for four board members and felt it appropriate that they were allowed an opportunity to make remarks.

Chuck Smith remarked that it has been an absolute honor to serve on the ACCS Board of Trustees. Mr. Smith commented to the Chancellor that he and his staff are phenomenal and the glue that holds the system together. On lighter note, Mr. Smith humorously warned that the Public Comment section of the agendas should be changed to Chuck's comments. Mr. Smith advised Susan Price to notify SACSCOC that although he was no longer on the Board that he would still be heard from. Mr. Smith voiced that he hated to see this experience end, expressed his well wishes to everyone and gave his thanks for being allowed the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Ms. Susan Foy stated it had been her honor and privilege to serve as the District 3 Trustee for the ACCS. Ms. Foy felt as though it were just yesterday that the Board members were being sworn in and stated that time flies when you are having fun doing something good for the whole State of Alabama. Ms. Foy commented that she has a lot of good memories and has forged good friendships with the Trustees and others in the system. Ms. Foy thanked the staff for their help. Ms. Foy stated that she has seen a lot of transformation over the time that she has served on the ACCS Board. Ms. Foy reminisced that the four departing members have served under two governors, two Chancellors and have seated many college presidents. Ms. Foy has been impressed by the work done with regards to the ERP system and the new enrollment management system. Ms. Foy believes that the work of the ACCS is often times under appreciated by the citizens of this state and ACCS deserves to be recognized and appreciated more for all ACCS does for the young people and the future of the State of Alabama. Ms. Foy expressed her sincere gratitude to ACCS staff and respects the work being done by ACCS. Ms. Foy advised that she too finds it bittersweet to leave but realizes that it is time to vacate the seat and let someone else sit on the Board.

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Ms. Crystal Brown opened her comments by reciting a scripture, Ecclesiastes 3:1 “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”. Ms. Brown recalls that 6 years ago she was not sure what the future held for her as a member of the ACCS Board of Trustees, but she fully devoted herself to the work and found it to be wonderful. Ms. Brown has been touched by the many success stories from the students whose lives have been touched and the trajectory of their lives have forever been changed by ACCS’ commitment to affordable quality education. Ms. Brown expressed that it has been her great pleasure to serve on the ACCS Board of Trustees and will forever be grateful to each of the current trustees and Mr. Ron Fantroy, Mr. Frank Caldwell, and Mr. Jeffrey Newman who had previously retired from the Board. Ms. Brown applauded the exceptional leadership of Al Thompson as Chairman. Ms. Brown concluded with best wishes to everyone at ACCS and stated she is looking forward to seeing great things from the system.

Chairman Al Thompson began by saying that little did he know in June 2014, when he received a call from the Governor to be on the State Board of Education, that 7 years later that he would end up with the wonderful experience of serving on the ACCS Board of Trustees. Chairman Thompson commented that being on the ACCS Board has been a life learning experience and exposed him to the vital public education system in the state and expressed his hope to be able to somehow continue to be a part of it. Chairman Thompson believes that public education is so important to be able to raise up everyone in the state and ensure that nobody is left behind. Chairman Thompson stated that the Covid pandemic made for a difficult year where the Board was not able to meet in person, nor meet with the Chancellor and/or presidents on a one on one basis, but that despite the challenges many things were accomplished due to the hard work by the ACCS system and the Board. Chairman Thompson commended Chancellor Baker and his staff as having been exemplary throughout his time on the Board. Chairman Thompson believes that Chancellor Baker made a wise decision to make the Legal Department key support for the Board. Chairman Thompson thanked the members of the Legal Department for their hard work. Chairman Thompson reminisced that he had developed good relationships with the college presidents and plans to attend some of the upcoming graduation ceremonies. Chairman Thompson stated that the focus of the ACCS has ultimately been on student success and there is where it needs to remain. Mr. Thompson opined that the work of the system is not about anyone individually, nor anybody’s ego or who gets credit but that it should all be about ACCS enabling the students to be successful and serving the citizens of Alabama. Chairman Thompson advised that it has been a joy to work with Chancellor Baker from whom he has learned a great deal. The Board of Trustees knew when Chancellor Baker was hired that he had many fine qualities and the Chancellor has exhibited those qualities as he faced the challenges of presidential vacancies and the Covid pandemic. Prior to Chancellor Baker taking the position, Chairman Thompson knew that Chancellor Baker knew how to address a situation assertively and not kick the can down the road. Chancellor Baker has been undeterred in his work and continued to move forward no matter what difficulties he faced, whether it was funding, Covid, or loss of personnel. Chancellor Baker recognizes the value that people make. Chairman Thompson expressed his appreciation to the college presidents and staff, to the ACCS staff and the other members of the

Board of Trustees. Chairman Thompson commented that he is confident the Board is being left in the very competent hands of the remaining Board members and the new ones that will be joining. Chairman Thompson's relayed that his time on the Board of Trustees has been a wonderful experience and one that he will cherish for the rest of his life.

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

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 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 10:46.

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor