

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2022, 10:01 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:01 a.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 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. MILTON DAVIS
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Davis.

The invocation was delivered by Reverend Gillian Walters of First United Methodist Church of Montgomery and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. Milton Davis
Mr. Jeb Shell
Ms. Valerie Gray (via Zoom)
Mr. Matthew Woods
Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Blake McAnally
Dr. Yvette Richardson

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the January 12, 2022 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

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
APPROVAL OF CLANTON CAMPUS CDL TRACK PROJECT

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board unanimously authorized Jefferson State Community College to proceed with construction of the CDL Track Project on the Chilton-Clanton Campus. The scope of work for the project is the site work and installation of a ¾ mile CDL training track. The track will include a turnaround area.

Fiscal Consideration: \$1,731,452.00

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VARIOUS HVAC PROJECTS

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board unanimously authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with construction of Various HVAC Projects. Calhoun Community College's Various HVAC Projects covers multiple, separate smaller projects located on the Decatur and Huntsville Campuses. The projects are intended to be designed, bid and constructed as one package. The scope for the Center for Applied Technology and Center for Business and Industry Training buildings on the Decatur Campus includes replacing the existing HVAC units. The scope for the Sparkman Building on the Huntsville Campus includes the installation of a new HVAC system to serve the future buildout of the existing shell space in Area 5, replacement of the water-cooled chiller system, control valves and the emergency ventilation system in the mechanical room of the Lower Level of the building, and installing an emergency generator on the west side of the building.

Fiscal consideration: \$3,552,916.00 – CARES ACT Funds

NORTHWEST-SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOFTBALL FIELD AND BASEBALL FIELD ARTIFICIAL GRASS INSTALLATION
(PART 2)

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Woods, the Board unanimously authorized Northwest-Shoals Community College to proceed with the purchase and installation of the Artificial Grass Installation Project (part 2) for the Softball Field and the Baseball Field at the Muscle Shoals Campus. The entire playing surfaces (infield and outfield) for both the softball field and the baseball field will be artificial grass when the project is completed.

Fiscal consideration: \$1,473,842.00 - ASPIRE Funds

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UPGRADE OF SECURITY SYSTEM

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board unanimously authorized Shelton State Community College to proceed with updating, enhancing, and future-proofing its security system.

Fiscal consideration: \$4,981,352.00 - HEERF Funds

J.F. DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
UPGRADE OF SECURITY SYSTEM

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board unanimously authorized J.F. Drake State Community & Technical College to proceed with updating, enhancing, and future-proofing its security system.

Fiscal consideration: \$2,675,069.46 - HEERF Funds

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
PROFESSIONAL LEGAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board unanimously authorized the Chancellor and his appropriate staff members to negotiate the terms of and obtain professional legal liability insurance within certain prescribed parameters and report such to the Board. The Board also unanimously authorized the Alabama Community College System to direct each college and the Alabama Technology Network to purchase professional legal liability insurance

under the policy recommended by the Chancellor for the coverage period March 1, 2022, to March 1, 2023.

Fiscal consideration: Maximum of \$396,520 – Current Unrestricted Funds

SNEAD STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
APPROVAL TO CONFER NAMED GIFT OPPORTUNITY

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board unanimously authorized the President of Snead State Community College to confer a named gift in accordance with ACCS Policy 519.01: Naming of Buildings and Other College Facilities by renaming the Snead State Administration Building to the Joe and Susan Story Administration Building and naming the Snead State Library the Margaret Pritchett-Story Library.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Woods both commented that this was a tremendous gift and commended President Whitmore for his efforts in helping this come to pass. Mr. Davis thanked Dr. and Ms. Story and cited an excerpt from their letter stating that Dr. Story's mother achieved her dream to be a teacher through Snead, and Susan's father attended Snead on the GI bill and became a skilled craftsman. The letter further stated that Dr. and Ms. Story felt blessed for the role Snead played in their professional and personal success and wanted to give something back to the college.

Fiscal consideration: \$2,000,000 - Gift to the Snead State Foundation

SECTION IX
PERSONNEL

None.

SECTION X
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Baker asked Dr. Vicky Ohlson to give a presentation on STEM. Dr. Ohlson began by explaining what STEM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. She stated that there is a lot of confusion about what STEM really is. Some say it is a collection of disciplines, others say it is an approach to education that tries to cross over the different boundaries that are set up between the disciplines and integrate all of these skills across the disciplines. Dr. Ohlson presented two different interpretations of STEM, one showing the different fields falling under each category. She presented ACCS data from Spring 2021

showing that 59% of program completions were in non-STEM fields. Only 5% were truly STEM, while 18% were STEM-related, such as electronics or digital media programs, which require technical courses. She also stated that Health Science, which comprised 18% of program completions, could also be considered STEM because it requires a considerable amount of science classes. Per the data, 41% of ACCS students are in classes related to STEM.

Dr. Ohlson presented ACHE data from Fall 2020 showing new undergraduate transfer student majors. Most students were in the General Studies field. Dr. Ohlson stated that most of the jobs currently advertised for hire are not in STEM fields. Data indicates that the top current in-demand jobs are not in STEM occupations and only two categories pay more than \$35,000 per year, with over half paying less than \$25,000 per year. Per Dr. Ohlson, these jobs need to be filled and ACCS is working to help fill these jobs through the Innovation Center.

Dr. Ohlson presented data showing the top 15 jobs that require some college, but no more than a Bachelor's degree. Per this data, 80% of these jobs are in STEM and pay over \$110,000 per year. Many are in Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics fields. Dr. Ohlson stated there is a lot of work to do to get students prepared for these jobs. Per Department of Education data for 2020-2021, only 22% of all tested K-12 students were proficient in Math and 35% were proficient in Science, with 93% tested. Dr. Ohlson stated that ACCS STEM Initiatives are working to turn this trend around. The Chancellor announced last summer that we can now use dual enrollment scholarships for STEM-related courses, which opens up the possibility for high-school students to take math and science courses on a scholarship at our community colleges. ACCS also has new STEM initiatives related to faculty. Last fall, the ACCS began a new Faculty Manufacturing Externship sponsored by the Alabama Automobile Manufacturers Association and ACCS. This paired an instructor from a STEM discipline with a career technical education instructor and placed them in a manufacturing company for six weeks where they were immersed in the company's operations. The instructors were then required to take what they learned and integrate it into their classes. Barry May, Executive Director of Workforce and Economic Development, stated that this program will be merged with the STEM Council's statewide efforts to provide more opportunities to more faculty across the state.

Dr. Ohlson further stated that on February 10, the ACCS will submit an application for a multi-million dollar grant from the Economic Development Administration for a Good Jobs Challenge program. This will take a program started at Calhoun Community College called Systems Engineering Technology and modify and expand it across the state. This will be a three-year project that will train approximately 1,010 students over a two-year period. Over five years, it is expected to train more than 3,000 students. This program will embed a short-term certificate for Digital Engineering Technicians into a traditional Associate degree program in Computer Science. This program will allow students to work side-by-side in a manufacturing environment creating a "digital twin for a physical product." This will save manufacturing companies money by providing skills, normally required from a high-paid engineer, from a two-year graduate who will still make good money, but not as much as a full engineer.

Dr. Ohlson stated that ACCS also supports State STEM initiatives. Chancellor Baker, Dr. Vicki Karolewics, President of Wallace State Community College, and Keith Phillips, Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development, are members of the STEM Council. The STEM Council will soon be revealing a public dashboard that will take the K-12 data on student Math and Science proficiency and make it into a dashboard so each school system can see how their system is performing in these areas. Data will be broken down into various categories and sub-groups. This tool will allow identification of specific school systems that have high populations of at-risk students who are achieving at higher rates than the state average in math and science proficiency. These systems will then be able to share their best practices.

Dr. Ohlson introduced Dr. Veronica Morin, the new Associate Director of STEM and Distance Education who will be starting with the ACCS System Office in the coming week. Dr. Morin has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Science in Biology from Jacksonville State University, and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration. She has served for 3½ years as Assistant Director of STEM Outreach at Auburn University. She also has 12 years of experience in community college instruction with Georgia Highlands College as an Associate Professor of Biology. While there, she earned the Lifetime Achievement in Advising Award which is presented to the person who exhibited extraordinary service in providing academic advisement to students, based on student feedback. She has been involved in numerous grants, including co-author of grants and is very familiar with learning management systems, and is Quality Matters certified.

Mr. Davis stated that he was in Decatur last week at a meeting in a chemical plant where they expressed a need for someone with certification in Engineering Technology. He was able to contact Calhoun Community College and several candidates met the qualifications. Per Mr. Davis, we have the education in place, but need to continue to reach out and help our workforce. He thanked Dr. Ohlson for her presentation.

Mr. McAnally asked if we will be able to have similar metrics as the State School Board and a means to grade ourselves in the future. Dr. Ohlson stated that this is one of the duties of the new Associate Director of STEM.

SECTION XI
COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

SECTION XII

(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Woods, second by Mr. McAnally, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor