

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14, 2024, 10:04 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 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. GOODRICH ROGERS, CHAIRMAN

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rogers.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Mickey Ballard of Eastmont Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Britton Lightsey
Mr. Tim McCartney (via telephone)
Mr. Ron Houston (via telephone)
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Jeb Shell
Dr. Yvette Richardson (via telephone)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees approved an amendment of the agenda to add item 9.A.12 - Shelton State Community College's request to adopt a supplemental resolution approving the issuance of revenue bonds.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

SECTION VII
COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kemba Chambers, President of Trenholm State Community College, introduced a video showcasing the college. Dr. Chambers stated that Trenholm has been producing graduates for over 58 years, and that when they graduate from Trenholm, they are ready to make an impact in area businesses and industries, and are ready to take their education to the next level to transfer to four-year institutions or whatever the future holds. She added that Trenholm continues to make an economic impact of over \$74 million in our region. Additionally, the college has supported 1,100 regional jobs. With over 40 instructional workforce and development programs, along with dual enrollment and adult education programs, Trenholm continues to make great strides in the community. Trenholm has 70% of the region's 25 highest in-demand programs. The college has established its first River Region FAME chapter, line worker training program, LPN, and new instructional programs such as Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Medical Lab Technology, Criminal Justice, and will soon offer Data Analytics. The college will also be opening its third major campus site in Executive Park. This site will house 15 healthcare programs, culinary arts, hospitality management programs, and the college's restaurant, Harper's.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
REVISED POLICY 610.01: LEAVES WITH PAY

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees adopted the revised Policy 610.01: Leaves with Pay. It is further recommended that the policy take effect immediately.

Fiscal Consideration: None

SECTION IX
(INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ADULT EDUCATION, FACILITIES, FISCAL, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
ALLOCATION OF THE 2024-2025 TWO-YEAR COLLEGE SYSTEM AND PRISON EDUCATION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE APPROPRIATION

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On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees approved the allocation of the 2024-2025 Education Trust Fund (ETF) appropriation for operations and maintenance of the two-year colleges and the prison education appropriation as recommended by the Chancellor.

Fiscal Consideration: \$427,609,921 - College Operations and Maintenance (ETF)
19,093,615 - Prison Education Operations and Maintenance (ETF)
\$446,703,536 - Total O & M and Prison O & M funds

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
2024-2025 ACCS SALARY SCHEDULES

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees adopted the 2024-2025 salary schedules for the community and technical colleges and the Alabama Technology Network. The proposed 2024-2025 salary schedule provides for a two percent pay increase for all salary schedules. The 2024-2025 salary schedules become effective September 1, 2024, for employees paid from all schedules except faculty schedules, which become effective the first day of the 2024-2025 fall term.

Fiscal Consideration: \$7 million (approximate) unrestricted and auxiliary for a 2% COLA and applicable increase costs to fringe benefits.

NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADDITION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees approved an additional instructional site for Northeast Alabama Community College in Mentone, Alabama.

Fiscal Consideration: Rented by the Institution (\$800 per month for a 3-year period)

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADDITION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SITE

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees approved an additional instructional site for Calhoun Community College – the Steam Imagination Center at the Alabama Center for the Arts in Decatur.

Fiscal Consideration: Owned by the institution

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENTERPRISE CAMPUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND CAMPUS LANDSCAPING

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Enterprise State Community College to proceed with the project named Enterprise Campus Performing Arts Center and Campus Landscaping.

Fiscal Consideration: TBD

TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EXECUTIVE PARK RENOVATION FOR HEALTH CARE AND CULINARY

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Trenholm State Community College to proceed with the project named Trenholm Executive Park Campus Renovation for Healthcare and Culinary (Phase II Storefront and Structural Bid).

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$4,444,560. Phase II Storefront and Miscellaneous Structure \$2,990,000.

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JASPER CAMPUS HVAC TRAINING CENTER ADDITION FOR ENERGY SERVICES
INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING CENTER

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Bevill State Community College to proceed with the project named Jasper Campus HVAC Training Center Addition for Energy Services Infrastructure Training Center (FF&E).

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$7,633,907

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS NEW CONSTRUCTION OF FINE ARTS
ACADEMY AND STORAGE

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with the project named Alabama Center for the Arts New Construction of Fine Arts Academy and Storage.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$18,570,729

NORTHWEST-SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MUSCLE SHOALS CAMPUS CDL TRAINING SITE

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Northwest Shoals Community College to proceed with the project named Muscle Shoals Campus CDL Training Site

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,003,669

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE
HANCEVILLE CAMPUS BASEBALL FIELD AND SOFTBALL FIELD RETROFITS TO ARTIFICIAL GRASS

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace State Community College to proceed with the project named Hanceville Campus Baseball Field and Softball Field Retrofits to Artificial Grass.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$2,161,310

LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION APPROVING BOND ISSUE

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees adopted a supplemental resolution to the resolution adopted May 8, 2024 providing (1) for the construction, renovating, and equipping of facilities on the Lurleen B. Wallace Community College campus, (2) for the financing thereof by the issuance of revenue bonds in the par amount not to exceed \$6,375,000, (3) for securing the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds, and (4) for payment of costs of issuing the bonds.

Fiscal Consideration: Approximately \$6,000,000, and not to exceed \$6,375,000, for a maximum of a 30-year bond, with annual debt service of approximately \$384,000.

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION APPROVING BOND ISSUE

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees adopted a supplemental resolution providing (1) for the construction, renovating, and equipping of facilities on the Shelton State Community College, (2) for the financing thereof by the issuance of revenue bonds in the par amount of up to \$19,000,000, (3) for securing the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds, and (4) for payment of costs of issuing the bonds.

Fiscal Consideration: Not to exceed \$19,000,000 for a maximum of a 30-year bond, with annual debt service of approximately \$1,152,000.

SECTION X **PERSONNEL**

Charlene Finkelstein, HR Generalist, introduced the following new personnel:

Rosie Otten – Registrar Coordinator (Innovation Center)
Grant Gunn – Registrar Coordinator (Innovation Center)
Darlisha Davis – Workforce Coordinator (Southern Region)
Clay Tucker – Governance, Risk, and Compliance Manager
Alan Wallace – Regional Chief Information Officer (Northeast Region)

SECTION XI **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Baker asked Dr. Neil Scott to give an update on enrollment. Per Dr. Scott, the Fall 2023 headcount was 83,379, a 6.18% increase over Fall 2022. Credit hour production was up 4.57% and 21 of 24 colleges had increased head count over Fall 2022. Spring 2024 headcount was 77,971, up 7.99% over Spring 2023, with credit hour production up 5.51% and 21 of 24 colleges showing increased headcount. Summer 2024 headcount was 48,632, up 4.77% over Summer 2023, with credit hour production up 4.19% and 19 of 23 colleges showing increased headcount over Summer 2023. Total credit hour production for the 2023-24 school year totaled 1,517,255, a 4.32% increase.

Dr. Scott added that our 2023-2024 head count is the highest we have seen since 2013-2014. He stated that the outlook for Fall 2024 is very promising. Over 100,285 applications have been received, an 8.08% increase. First-time freshmen, dual enrollment, transfer, and returning/readmit applications have all increased. Registrations are also up.

Dr. Scott also gave a summary of Workforce and Adult Education enrollment for 2023-2024. Per Dr. Scott, 39,944 students have enrolled in Workforce Development programs and there are 26,751 registrations for Adult Education.

President Todd Shackett briefly gave an update on enrollment at Southern Union. He stated that three main areas of focus at Southern Union are the academic, technical, and health science divisions. Regarding academics, he mentioned that five years ago, a relationship was formed with Auburn University called "Path to the Plains." Per President Shackett, Auburn turns away 50,000 students a year, so Southern Union now offers concurrent enrollment, similar to dual

enrollment, where students are simultaneously enrolled at Southern Union and Auburn. The success rate so far is 97%. Regarding the second area of technical education, the college has added evening classes. Last count indicated double the number of students from 380 to over 600 now, with a goal of 1,000. Aviation Maintenance has been added, with 70 people currently on a waiting list. Health Sciences has added programs in Physical Therapy and, soon, Veterinary Medicine. Evening classes have also been added in the Health Science area.

President Olivier Charles gave an enrollment update for Bishop State. Per President Charles, he set a goal of a 20% increase and, as of now, they are exactly 20% ahead of last year. He said he is most proud of the fact that in Fall 2021, enrollment was barely 2,000 students. In Fall 2024, enrollment will be 4,000 students. This is a 100% enrollment growth over the last three years.

Ed Lawrence, Vice Chancellor/Chief Information and Data Management Officer, gave an overview on the progress of technology within our system. He stated he has visited all 24 colleges in the ACCS and he has learned the uniqueness of each college and their communities. Per Mr. Lawrence, in 2016, Chancellor Baker began a mission to improve a unified system of institutions dedicated to excellence in delivering academic education, adult education, and workforce development and to provide an affordable pathway to help citizens of any walk or stage of life succeed through quality education and training. With this vision in mind, the student information system, Ellucian Banner, was launched in 2018 which improved accounts receivable, finance, financial aid, human resources, payroll, and student services. All 24 colleges were migrated in just three years. In 2020, DegreeWorks was implemented to provide real-time degree progress for students with a personalized dashboard. In 2021, TargetX was implemented to manage customer relationships. This provided a much better method of application submission, enrollment management, recruitment, and student engagement. In 2022, NeoEd and Ad Astra were introduced. NeoEd was implemented at all 24 colleges to streamline Human Resources processes and make recruiting time shorter. Ad Astra's goal was also to streamline processes. In 2023 and 2024, Instructure Canvas was introduced to create a system-wide learning management system. Mr. Lawrence added that for 2025, we now have a solid technological foundation to address future educational needs to make life better for the community.

Dr. Chris Cox, Vice Chancellor of Instruction, Research, and Development, briefly spoke on the importance of our mission to the workforce. Per Dr. Cox, Alabama's workforce participation rate is currently 57.2%, lower than the national average of 62.4%. This is partly because of lower educational attainment and higher poverty rates. He added that the postsecondary going rate (the percentage of high school graduates who enroll in college) has a significant impact on the workforce participation rate. Higher postsecondary going rates usually lead to higher workforce participation rates. Alabama's postsecondary going rate of 54% is also lower than the national average of 63%. Factors affecting this are quality and cost of education, and availability of jobs. He added that community colleges are better able to change these factors than anyone else.

Sara Calhoun, Chief Financial Officer, stated that per their research, there were more than 36,000 high school students, as of Spring 2022, who did not seek any postsecondary education. She proposes funding a pilot project for the colleges to address this. Per Ms. Calhoun, she is challenging the Presidents to increase their enrollment numbers. The ACCS will supply \$300,000 for each college for FY25 to focus on expanding services to more high school students. This can be used for marketing, staffing, program expansion, recruitment, scholarships, etc. The Presidents can decide how the funds are used.

Boone Kinard, Executive Director of External Affairs, spoke on legislative issues. Per Mr. Kinard, work is already underway for the next legislative session. A plan is set to meet with every legislator to share the good work of the ACCS. All college Presidents were previously asked to create a top ten list of achievements they have seen at their colleges. Meetings will start next month and go through the end of the year. Packets were distributed to each President with information summarizing the colleges' top ten achievements, as well as the new ACCS branding/marketing initiative and upcoming workforce development capital improvement projects.

SECTION XII

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Shell, the Board unanimously approved a fourth amendment to Chancellor Baker's contract extending it through December 31, 2028, and including an automatic renewal clause and 15% salary increase effective September 1, 2024. Per Ms. Gray, this was recommended by the Personnel Committee based on the Chancellor's exceptional performance rating of 4.87 out of 5.0.

SECTION XIII

(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor