

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025, 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, October 8, 2025, at the Leidos Advanced Training Complex of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, Huntsville, Alabama. The meeting was called in accordance with Act No. 2015-125.

**PRESIDING: MS. VALERIE GRAY, CHAIR**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gray.

The invocation was delivered by Reverend Dr. Mario D. Ford of Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church in Huntsville, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Ms. Valerie Gray  
Mr. Jeb Shell  
Mr. John Mitchell (via phone)  
Mr. Goodrich Rogers  
Mr. Britton Lightsey  
Mr. Ron Houston  
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone  
Mr. Tim McCartney  
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**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Shell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025, meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI**  
**(PUBLIC COMMENT)**

None.

Minutes

Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees

October 8, 2025

Page 2

## **SECTION VII**

### **COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT – J.F. DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Dr. Patricia Sims, President of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, gave a brief presentation. She first thanked her team for their hard work, and also thanked Chancellor Baker and the Board for making the Leidos Advanced Training facility possible. Dr. Sims stated that the area where they are located is nicknamed the “Pentagon of the South” because of the presence of Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville and several three-star generals in the area. Additionally, the relocation of Space Command to Redstone Arsenal further emphasizes the importance of the area, which has opened up many new opportunities for the college.

Ms. Neoka Hambrick, Veterans and Military Affairs Coordinator and Financial Aid Administrator, spoke briefly on her role in Veterans Affairs. She stated that she has witnessed first-hand the impact of education on Veterans and their families. She added that during her tenure, the college has assisted 17 military families. She introduced Mr. Gabriel Soto, US Army Veteran, his wife Priscilla, and sons Damien and Dante, showing the generational impact that education can have.

Ms. Priscilla Soto thanked Drake State for the impact the college has had on her family. According to Ms. Soto, in 2019, her husband left the military after 9 ½ years of active duty service, and they relocated to Madison, Alabama. Her oldest son was the first to attend Drake State. After learning about the benefits that Drake State provided, Ms. Soto also enrolled. Soon after, when her husband’s employment contract ended, he wanted to further his education for better career opportunities. He then made the decision to attend Drake State, as well, and shortly after he received a new contract working on aircraft and rockets. Now, Ms. Soto’s youngest son is planning to attend the college’s welding program, which will make the entire family Drake State graduates.

## **SECTION VIII**

### **(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

#### **ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

#### **REVISED POLICY 204.01: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees adopted the revised Policy 204.01: Appointment of Local Administrative Staff, to become effective, as revised, October 8, 2025.

**Fiscal Consideration: None.**

Minutes

Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees

October 8, 2025

Page 3

**SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**RENEWAL OF BOOKSTORE OPERATIONS AGREEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees approved Southern Union State Community College (“Southern Union”) entering into the renewal of its bookstore operation and services agreement with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC (“Barnes & Nobles”) for the period beginning August 1, 2025 and ending on July 31, 2030.

**Fiscal Consideration:** **The College shall receive a commission of 14.1% on all gross sales up to \$2,000,000, a commission of 15.1% on gross sales above \$2,000,000 and a commission of 7% on gross sales of Digital Course materials.**

**SECTION IX**

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

**BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**ADDITION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SITE**

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees approved an additional instructional site for Bishop State Community College.

**Fiscal Consideration:** **The operation of this site proposed herein is within the budget of the college.**

**COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**ATMORE CAMPUS BUILDING E RENOVATION FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE**  
**CENTRALIZED TRAINING**

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Coastal Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Atmore Campus Building “E” Renovation for Rural Healthcare Centralized Training (Change Order #2). Construction contract shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration:** **TOTAL PROJECT COST \$2,717,398**

**SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Minutes

Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees

October 8, 2025

Page 4

**MARTIN CAMPUS SOFTBALL FIELD NATURAL GRASS REPLACEMENT WITH  
ARTIFICIAL GRASS**

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Shelton State Community College to proceed with the project named Martin Campus Softball Field Natural Grass Replacement with Artificial Grass. Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$703,982**

**CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
HUNTSVILLE CAMPUS SPARKMAN BUILDING RESTROOMS AND CORRIDOR  
RENOVATIONS**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with construction of the project named Huntsville Campus Sparkman Building Restrooms and Corridor Renovations. Construction contract shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$836,150**

**CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DECATUR CAMPUS STUDENT UNION CENTER**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with construction of the project named Decatur Campus Student Union Center. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$19,270,029**

**CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DECATUR CAMPUS PURCHASE OF 219 2<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE SE PROPERTY**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with the project named Decatur Campus Purchase of 219 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE Property. The closing process was completed in September 2025, and this action replaces the Board of Trustees authorization dated August 13, 2025.

**Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$1,192,192**

Minutes

Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees

October 8, 2025

Page 5

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

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Houston, 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 (Funding increase of FF&E for training equipment, new trucks, Pre-Purchase of Mechanical/Electrical equipment, and setup). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$13,863,644**

**LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS TENNIS COURTS RENOVATION**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Lawson State Community College to proceed with the project named Birmingham Campus Tennis Courts Renovation (Phase II – Construction of New Tennis Courts). Construction contract shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$199,163**

**LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**ANDALUSIA CAMPUS SETH HAMMETT GYMNASIUM RENOVATION AND**  
**ADDITION**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to proceed with the project named Andalusia Campus Seth Hammett Gymnasium Renovation and Addition. Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: \$7,579,574**

**SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**OPELIKA CAMPUS HIGGINBOTHAM ACADEMIC CENTER ROOFING AND BUILDING**  
**EXTERIOR WATERPROOFING**

Minutes

Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees

October 8, 2025

Page 6

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Southern Union State Community College to proceed with the project named Opelika Campus Higginbotham Academic Center Roofing and Building Exterior Waterproofing. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: \$ 1,558,374**

**SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**OPELIKA CAMPUS HEALTH SCIENCES ROOFING AND BUILDING EXTERIOR**  
**WATERPROOFING**

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Southern Union State Community College to proceed with the project named Opelika Campus Health Sciences Roofing and Building Exterior Waterproofing. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than January 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: \$1,427,115**

**SECTION X**  
**PERSONNEL**

None.

**SECTION XI**  
**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor of Student Success, presented the latest enrollment numbers. Per Dr. Scott, the 98,000 mark has finally been exceeded for Fall 2025, with 98,012 students enrolled in for-credit courses. This is a 9.6% increase over final Fall 2024 headcount. Credit hour production also shows a 9% increase over Fall 2024. Dr. Scott added that 23 out of 24 colleges are showing an increase in both headcount and credit hour production.

**SECTION XII**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

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

Minutes

Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees

October 8, 2025

Page 7

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery, Alabama at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Chairman

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Chancellor