

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
October 13, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast and telephonic dial in. The Chairman of the Board, Regent Sachin Shailendra, called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Shailendra, were Vice Chairman James M. Hull; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Cade Joiner; Everett Kennedy; Lowery May; Jose R. Perez; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; T. Dallas Smith; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regents Rachel B. Little and Kessel D. Stelling, Jr., were excused.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Secretary to the Board Edward Tate gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With motion made and properly seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board's meeting of September 15, 2020.

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Wrigley began his report by commending the University System of Georgia (USG) institutions on a successful return to classes this fall. He emphasized the critical role the USG plays in raising education achievement in Georgia and reiterated the importance of in-person instruction to the academic experience, especially for the students who need the most support with finishing their degrees. Although space and other circumstances vary from campus to campus and may necessitate the use of hybrid or online courses, the USG is committed to increasing the number of in-person courses that are offered in the spring. Campuses will continue to deliver as much instruction in-person as possible, including using the entire day or Saturdays to schedule classes. He encouraged provosts, deans, and department heads to assure students and families that every campus is doing all it can to offer a meaningful on-campus experience, including activities and programming outside the classroom. The Chancellor also spoke of the need to remain vigilant as we prepare for the spring semester, including the use of masks, good hygiene, and not gathering in groups.

Chancellor Wrigley thanked Governor Brian Kemp for making more COVID-19 tests available to USG institutions. This semester, the USG will have acquired nearly 200,000 tests for campus, including almost 100,000 rapid antigen tests that started arriving last week. Additional rapid antigen tests are being made available to the USG's three HBCU institutions through a White House initiative. These tests are in addition to the testing already taking place, whether through partnerships with public health, a local provider, conducted by the campus, or some combination of the three. Testing efforts have proven successful so far, as we have seen few cases on campus among faculty and staff, but we still need to be wary and alert. The Chancellor thanked Dr. Kathleen Toomey and the Georgia Department of Public Health for their outstanding support and assistance since March.

Chancellor Wrigley then mentioned several highlights from across the University System and spoke of his visits to a half-dozen USG campuses in the past several weeks. The USG recently inaugurated new facilities at the University of North Georgia and East Georgia State College, and USG presidents held their fall retreat at Middle Georgia State University. Fort Valley State University also hosted the annual meeting of the system staff council. Lastly, the USG will soon launch presidential searches at Georgia State University and Savannah State University (SSU). Chancellor Wrigley congratulated Georgia Highlands College, which will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. He also congratulated SSU students Karen Perez and Sade Shofidiya, whose charity recently won the top prize in the World Trade Centers Association Foundation's annual global trade competition for students.

Lastly, he commended the Georgia Public Library Service, which was named Library Journal's 2020 national Marketer of the Year.

Chancellor Wrigley concluded his remarks with a historical note. 138 years ago this month, Robert Goddard, who would later be known as the Father of the Space Age, was born. Mr. Goddard pioneered modern rocket propulsion and helped inspire America's space program.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reports of the standing committees are attached hereto. Upon motions made and duly seconded, the Board unanimously approved and adopted the reports of the following committees:

- the Committee on Academic Affairs
- the Committee on Organization & Law
- the Committee on Real Estate & Facilities

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Several petitions and communications were presented to the Board for review. Secretary to the Board Edward Tate announced that the next BOR meeting will be held on November 11, 2020, at the Board's offices in Atlanta.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Shailendra called for an executive session at approximately 2:16 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. With motion properly made and seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session.

### **RECONVENE**

Following the executive session, Chairman Shailendra reconvened the Board in its regular session at approximately 3:20 p.m. and announced that the Board took no actions during the executive session.

A resolution was proposed and with motion made and properly seconded, the Regents present unanimously approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia is focused on supporting its institutions continuing to return to safe in-person instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is focused on the continued success of Georgia students.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia believes in-person instruction maximizes the well-being and mental health of each student; and

**IT IS RESOLVED**, that each campus is to maximize safe in-person instruction; ensure hybrid instruction includes a vast majority of in-person interactive instruction where appropriate and safe; promote transparency in the modality of instruction prior to registration; and collect data on the effectiveness of student engagement and face to face interaction with their instructors.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.



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Sachin D. Shailendra  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia



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Edward M. Tate  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Academic Affairs of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 1:29 p.m. in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairwoman Erin Hames called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairwoman Hames, were Committee Vice Chairwoman Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Lowery May; Jose R. Perez; and Don L. Waters. Regent Rachel B. Little was excused. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The Committee approved the establishment of a Nexus degree in Public Safety at Columbus State University.
2. The Committee approved the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at Georgia State University.
3. The Committee approved a program termination request from Valdosta State University.
4. The Committee approved a request from Georgia College and State University President Steve Dorman to name the institution's newly created Honors College the "John E. Sallstrom Honors College."
5. The Committee approved a request from Kennesaw State University President Pamela Whitten to name the institution's College of Humanities and Social Sciences the "Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences."

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

6. The Committee approved the establishment of several endowed faculty positions at Columbus State University and Georgia State University.
7. The Committee approved appointments to several named faculty positions at Augusta University, Columbus State University, and Georgia State University.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Committee consideration, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:38 p.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND LAW**

The Committee on Organization and Law of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at 1:38 p.m. in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington Street, SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Don L. Waters called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Waters, were Committee Vice Chairman C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Lowery May; and Jose R. Perez. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Board Chairman Sachin Shailendra also were present. Regent Rachel B. Little was excused. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **APPROVAL ITEM**

The Committee approved Savannah State University Interim President Kimberly Ballard-Washington's request to award an honorary degree to Savannah Mayor Van R. Johnson, II.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Waters called for an executive session at 1:39 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and student records. With motion properly made and seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to go into executive session.

### **RECONVENE**

After the Committee exited executive session, Chairman Waters reconvened the Committee in its regular session at 1:48 p.m. and announced that no actions were taken during the executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON REAL ESTATE & FACILITIES**

The Committee on Real Estate & Facilities of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 1:30 p.m. in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington Street, SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Samuel D. Holmes called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Holmes, were Committee Vice Chairman T. Dallas Smith; Regents Cade Joiner; Everett Kennedy; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Board Vice Chairman James M. Hull also were present. Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. was excused. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. The Committee authorized Project No. BR-87-2101, Baseball/Softball Complex at Georgia Highlands College.
2. The Committee authorized Project No. BR-50-2101, Natural Science Center Room No. 360 Renovation for BSL-3 Laboratories at Georgia State University.
3. The Committee approved the below rankings of design professional firms for Project No. BR-66-2101, South Campus Roadway Extension at Georgia Southern University:
  1. Maxwell-Reddick and Associates, Inc., Statesboro
  2. Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc., Savannah
  3. EMC Engineering Services, Inc., Statesboro
  4. Pond & Company, Inc., Savannah
4. The Committee approved the execution of an amendment to a sub-rental agreement for 2750 Womble Road, San Diego, California, on behalf of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

**APPROVAL ITEMS**

5. The Committee approved a transfer of the name of the Penny and Roe Stamps Student Center Commons to the newly constructed Campus Center annex at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
6. The Committee approved the naming of the Nease Baseball Complex at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.