

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Albany, Georgia  
April 12 and 13, 2022**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 13, 2022, in Room 266 of the Student Center on the West Campus of Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast. Vice Chair Erin Hames called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on April 12. Present, in addition to Vice Chair Hames, on both days were Regents Tom Bradbury; Richard T. Evans; W. Allen Gudenrath; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; James M. Hull; Cade Joiner; C. Everett Kennedy III; Lowery Houston May (remotely); Jose R. Perez (remotely); Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; T. Dallas Smith; and Don L. Waters. Regents Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; and Sarah-Elizabeth Langford (remotely) were also present on April 12. Board Chair Harold Reynolds and Regents Doug Aldridge and James K. Syfan III were also present on April 13. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present on both days.

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

The meeting began on April 12 with the presentation of the colors by the Albany State University Army ROTC.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

TyJa Barnes-Jones, Albany State University's Student Government Association president, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

Albany State University Police Chief Anita Allen gave the safety briefing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With motion properly made and variously seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board meetings of February 8, 11, 15, 16 (AU Health Committee), and 17 (AU Health Committee) and March 1, 2 (Kennesaw State Presidential Search Committee), 8, 15, 15/16, 16 (AU Health Committee), and 23.

**PRESIDENTIAL PRESENTATION AND CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT – ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY**

Vice Chair Erin Hames introduced Albany State University President Dr. Marion Ross Fedrick to discuss Albany State's support of students who face challenges as they work to earn their college degrees. President Fedrick also offered a success story of a student who is now a faculty member. Incoming Albany State University student Taliyah Austin, representing the Boys and Girls Club of Albany, spoke of the help she has received to stay on track toward college. Albany State University honors student Taylia Griffin, Angelnique Jordan, associate dean for student support, and Ronda Arline, assistant professor of nursing, spoke of experiences on campus that have empowered students toward success.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2023 TUITION, FEES, AND ALLOCATIONS**

Following a presentation by Executive Vice Chancellor for Strategy and Fiscal Affairs Tracey Cook regarding Fiscal Year 2023 tuition, fees, and budget allocations, upon motions properly made and seconded, the Board members present unanimously approved the following items:

1. The Board approved the allocation of state appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 Amended Budget among 26 institutions and operating units of the University System of Georgia.
2. The Board approved the undergraduate, graduate, and online tuition rates to be flat for Fiscal Year 2023 (same as for Fiscal Year 2022), with two exceptions:
  - + Tuition to be increased at Middle Georgia State University by \$17.33 per credit hour for undergraduate in-state tuition and \$64.20 per credit hour for undergraduate out-of-state tuition. The plan is to increase the tuition incrementally over a 3-year period to bring tuition in-line with other institutions in the state university sector; and
  - + Reduce tuition by \$50 per credit hour for the Georgia Institute of Technology's Master of Science in Biomedical Innovation and Development degree.
3. The Board approved the Fiscal Year 2023 mandatory fee rates, which include the elimination of the Special Institutional Fee for all 26 institutions. This results in savings to students ranging from \$170 to \$544 per semester, effective Fall 2022. The Board also approved changes to eleven other mandatory fees at six institutions.
4. The Board approved the Fiscal Year 2023 elective fees and special charges as outlined in the meeting materials (at Appendix IIIB), which include the discontinuation of five fees at three institutions.
5. The Board approved the allocation of \$3.119 billion in state appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023 among 26 institutions and operating units of the University System of Georgia. The Board also approved the Fiscal Year 2023 capital budget allocations, totaling \$184,580,000.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Academic Affairs met as a committee of the whole at approximately 2:17 p.m. During its meeting led by Committee Vice Chair Samuel D. Holmes, the Board members present first unanimously approved the following action items (Agenda Items 1-10) upon motions properly and variously made and seconded.

### **Action Items**

- 1) The Committee approved a request to offer a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems at Georgia Gwinnett College.
- 2) The Committee approved a request to offer a Master of Science in Global Development at Georgia Institute of Technology.
- 3) The Committee approved a request to offer a Master of Science with a Major in Digital Financial Technologies at Kennesaw State University.
- 4) The Committee approved a request to offer a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Learning, Design & Technology at Kennesaw State University.
- 5) The Committee approved a request to offer a Master of Science in Integrative Health and Wellness at the University of West Georgia.

- 6) The Committee approved a request to offer an Associate of Science in Financial Technology as an eMajor Collaborative at Atlanta Metropolitan State College and East Georgia State College.
- 7) The Committee approved the termination of four programs across Gordon State College, the University of Georgia, and Valdosta State University.
- 8) The Committee approved a request from Chancellor Sonny Perdue to renew the Border State Resident Out-of-State Tuition Differential Waivers at 17 institutions.
- 9) The Committee approved a request from Chancellor Sonny Perdue to expand the Border State Resident Out-of-State Tuition Differential Waivers at six institutions.
- 10) The Committee approved a request to award Dr. Mark Becker the distinction and title of President Emeritus at Georgia State University.

### Consent Items

The Board members present then unanimously approved the following consent items (Agenda Items 11-19).

- 11) The Committee approved the establishment of the Barbara C. and Clifford J. Swift III Director of the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University.
- 12) The Committee approved the establishment of the Bonnie W. and Charles W. Moorman IV Professorship at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- 13) The Committee approved the establishment of the Dwight H. Evans Professorship at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- 14) The Committee approved the establishment of the Elwood P. “Doc” Blanchard Early Career Professorship at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- 15) The Committee approved the establishment of the Arnett C. Mace, Jr. Distinguished Professorship in Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia.
- 16) The Committee approved the establishment of the Georgia Power E-Mobility Distinguished Professorship at the University of Georgia.
- 17) The Committee approved the revision of the established William B. Strong Chair in Pediatric Cardiology Distinguished Chair at Augusta University.
- 18) The Committee approved the revision of the established Jere W. Morehead Distinguished Professorship for the Director of the Honors Program at the University of Georgia.
- 19) The Committee approved the appointment of several endowed faculty positions at Columbus State University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, and the University of Georgia.

Finally, the committee received an update regarding the Post-Tenure Review policy as an information item. The committee adjourned at approximately 2:38 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee on Economic Development met as a committee of the whole at approximately 2:40 p.m. During the meeting led by Committee Chair Cade Joiner, Albany State University President Dr. Marion Fedrick led a presentation that included Albany State faculty and staff and provided an overview and shared examples of how various Albany State programs contribute to

economic development in Southwest Georgia and around the world. The committee adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: INTERNAL AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE**

The Committee on Internal Audit, Risk, and Compliance met as a committee of the whole at approximately 3:15 p.m. During its meeting led by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames, the Board members present heard informational items from Dr. John Fuchko, III, Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness, and Wesley Horne, Director of Ethics and Compliance, regarding the University System's Ethics and Compliance Hotline and annual Ethics Awareness Week. Upon a motion made by Regent Samuel Holmes and seconded by Regent James M. Hull, the Board members present unanimously voted to enter into executive session at approximately 3:31 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and investigations. The committee reconvened at approximately 3:50 p.m. Vice Chair Hames reported that no action was taken during the executive session.

#### **RECESS**

The Board recessed for the day at approximately 3:51 p.m.

#### **RECONVENE**

Board Chair Harold Reynolds called the meeting back into session at approximately 9:35 a.m. on April 13.

#### **PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

The Albany State University Army ROTC again began the meeting with the presentation of the colors.

#### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Joy Robinson, an Honors Program Scholar at Albany State University, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **SAFETY BRIEFING**

Albany State University Police Chief Anita Allen again gave the safety briefing.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: FINANCE AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

The Committee on Finance and Business Operations met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:39 a.m. During the meeting led by Committee Chair Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., the Board received an information item on the USG Capital Liability Management Plan from Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance Cynthia Alexander. Upon a motion variously made and seconded, the Board members present and voting unanimously approved the request for Multi-Year Leasing Contract Value Authority. Regent W. Allen Gudenrath recused himself from that vote. The committee adjourned at approximately 10:01 a.m.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: PERSONNEL AND BENEFITS**

The Committee on Personnel and Benefits met as a committee of the whole at approximately 10:02 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Vice Chair Richard T. Evans, the Board members present unanimously approved a revision to Board Policy 8.26, Holidays, upon a

motion made by Regent Don L. Waters and variously seconded. The committee adjourned at approximately 10:04 a.m.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES**

The Committee on Real Estate and Facilities met as a committee of the whole at approximately 10:04 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair T. Dallas Smith, the Board first received an information item (Agenda Item 1) regarding then-Acting Chancellor Teresa MacCartney's approval of the ranking of the construction management firms for project number BR-10-2203, Holmes-Hunter Academic Building Renovation, for the University of Georgia.

#### **Consent Items**

The Board next heard the following consent items (Agenda Items 2-13), all of which were approved unanimously by the Board members present and voting, upon a motion made by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and seconded by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames. Regent James M. Hull recused himself from the vote in regard to Agenda Item 3.

2. The Committee approved the ranking of the program management and design-build firms for project number PPV-40-2201, 15<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Deck, for Augusta University. The ranked program management firms were:

1. Comprehensive Program Services, Inc. (Atlanta)
2. Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. (Atlanta)
3. BDR Partners, LLC (Atlanta)
4. Skanska (Atlanta)

The ranked design-build firms were:

1. Gilbane Building Company (Atlanta)
2. New South Construction Company (Atlanta)
3. RW Allen Construction, LLC (Augusta)
4. The Beck Group (Atlanta)

3. The Committee approved the ranking of the program management, design professional, and construction management firms for project number BR-82-2001, Coastal Community Center for the Arts, for the College of Coastal Georgia. Regent James M. Hull recused himself from voting on this item. The ranked program management firms were:

1. PDC Solutions, LLC (Atlanta)
2. CBRE, Inc. (Atlanta)
3. Cumming Management Group, Inc. (Atlanta)

The ranked design professional firms were:

1. Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung International, Inc. (Savannah)
2. Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC. (Savannah)
3. Southern A&E, LLC (Austell)

The ranked construction management firms were:

1. McKnight Construction Company, Inc. (Augusta)
2. JE Dunn Construction Company (Savannah)
3. Ajax Building Company, LLC (Alpharetta)
4. Piedmont Construction Group, Inc. (Statesboro)

4. The Committee authorized project number BR-40-2202, Student Welcome Center, for Augusta University.

5. The Committee authorized project number BR-72-2201, Parking Lot A Paving, for Georgia Gwinnett College.

6. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2204, Van Leer Infrastructure and Resiliency Project, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

7. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2207, Aerospace Engineering Aircraft Hangar, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

8. The Committee authorized project number BR-10-2207, Soil Science Headhouse and Soil Storage Building Renovation, for the University of Georgia.

9. The Committee authorized project number BR-10-2208, Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Renovation for Track & Field, for the University of Georgia.

10. The Committee approved a sub-rental agreement for Suite 300, 817 West Peachtree Street NW, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

11. The Committee approved a sub-rental agreement for Suite 500, 817 West Peachtree Street NW, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

12. The Committee approved a sub-rental agreement for Suite 770, 817 West Peachtree Street NW, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

13. The Committee approved a sub-rental agreement for space at Falcon Hill Aerospace Research Park, Building 1578, located on Hill Air Force Base in Clearfield, Utah, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

#### Approval Items

The Board members present finally approved the following approval items (Agenda Items 14-25) unanimously.

14. The Committee approved a budget modification for project number J-362, Nursing Health Science Simulation Lab, for Albany State University. The motion was made by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans, Sr.

15. The Committee approved a budget modification for project number BR-40-2101, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Research Space Build-Out, College of Science and Math, for Augusta University. The motion was made by Regent James M. Hull and seconded by Regent W. Allen Gudenrath.
16. The Committee approved a budget modification for project number J-376, Gateway Building and Infrastructure, for Georgia Gwinnett College. The motion was made by Committee Vice Chair C. Everett Kennedy, III and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans, Sr.
17. The Committee approved a budget modification for project number J-375, Convocation Center, for Georgia Southern University. The motion was made by Regent James M. Hull and seconded by Regent Don L. Waters.
18. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2206, Ferst Drive Corridor Realignment, for the Georgia Institute of Technology. The Committee also delegated authority to the Chancellor to approve the ranking of the design-build firms for the project. The motion was made by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames.
19. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2205, East Campus Streetscapes, for the Georgia Institute of Technology. The Committee also delegated authority to the Chancellor to approve the ranking of the design-build firms for the project. The motion was made by Committee Vice Chair C. Everett Kennedy, III, and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans, Sr.
20. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2208, Athletics Infrastructure Enabling Project, for the Georgia Institute of Technology. The motion was made by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and seconded by Committee Vice Chair C. Everett Kennedy, III.
21. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2209, Student-Athlete Performance Center, for the Georgia Institute of Technology. The motion was made by Board Chair Harold Reynolds and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans.
22. The Committee authorized project number BR-50-2202, Fulton Street Parking Deck, for Georgia State University. The motion was made by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes.
23. The Committee approved a rental agreement for athletic facilities at the University of Georgia. The motion was made by Regent Don L. Waters and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May.
24. The Committee approved a rental agreement for athletic facilities at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The motion was made by Regent James K. Syfan, III, and seconded by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames.
25. The Committee approved the naming of Truist Plaza at the University of Georgia. The motion was made by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Doug Aldridge.

The committee adjourned at approximately 10:27 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: ORGANIZATION AND LAW**

The Committee on Organization and Law met as a committee of the whole at approximately 10:28 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Don L. Waters, the Board members present unanimously approved five honorary degrees at the request of the respective institution presidents, on the recommendation of the Chancellor. The honorary degrees were awarded to:

Richard Bergmark – Georgia Institute of Technology (upon a motion by Regent James M. Hull and second by various Regents)

Raphael Bostick – Georgia Institute of Technology (upon a motion by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by various Regents)

Chris Bridges (“Ludacris”) – Georgia State University (upon a motion by Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and seconded by various Regents)

Lynn Cottrell – University of North Georgia (upon a motion that was made and seconded by various Regents)

Curtis Jones – Gordon State College (upon a motion that was made and seconded by various Regents)

The committee adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m., pending its subsequent executive session to address student and personnel matters in conjunction with the full Board’s executive session.

### **DATA COLLECTION AND USE TO SUPPORT USG DECISION MAKING AND STRATEGY**

Dr. Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis, gave the Board an overview of data the University System collects from campuses and how it is used, along with a demonstration of analytical tools that the System Office, in conjunction with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provides to campuses regarding student recruitment, progress, and outcomes.

### **CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

Chancellor Sonny Perdue gave his first report to the Board as Chancellor of the University System of Georgia. He started by thanking President Marion Ross Fedrick and Albany State University for hosting this month’s Board meeting as well as thanking the Board, faculty, staff, and students for welcoming him to the University System.

Chancellor Perdue noted that when he was Governor, the State had to deal with twin recessions which meant state funding cuts to agencies including USG. Now, he said he had come full circle in recognizing one of the best budgets for higher education, which was supported this year by Governor Kemp and the General Assembly. This includes funds to help the Board eliminate the Special Institutional Fee – a significant savings to students.

Chancellor Perdue also applauded the Board’s decision not to raise tuition rates at most institutions for the fifth time in seven years, saying affordability was critical for continued support of students toward their degrees. Chancellor Perdue said he is strongly committed to USG’s teaching, research, and service mission, and noted some of the campus visits he had already made.



Chancellor Perdue said that people should have high expectations of the System, which if it does its job right empowers students to learn the skills they need to get good jobs. Georgia succeeds when the system's students succeed, he said, because their success in a highly skilled workforce powers the economic development that has allowed this state to thrive. He said he looked forward to working with the Board and getting to work on behalf of the System and the State.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., gave the Board an update on the planning for the 2022 USG Foundation Gala.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Secretary to the Board Christopher McGraw reported that there were no formal petitions or communications to be reviewed by the Board and that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on May 10, 2022, in the Board room in Atlanta.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Chair Reynolds called for an executive session at approximately 11:30 a.m. to discuss personnel matters and real estate-related issues. With motion made by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and seconded by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session. The executive session of the Committee on Organization and Law took place approximately from 11:40 to 11:51 a.m. Affidavits regarding the executive sessions are on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

**RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened at approximately 12:53 p.m., and Board Chair Harold Reynolds reported that no action was taken during the executive session.

Upon a motion by Regent Cade Joiner that was seconded by Regent Don L. Waters, the Board members present unanimously voted, upon recommendation of the Chancellor, to waive the provisions of Board Policy 8.2.3, Employment of Relatives, on a one-time basis in regard to the coaches of softball and men's basketball at Georgia State University.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m. upon motion made by Regent T. Dallas Smith and seconded by Regent James K. Syfan III, which was unanimously approved.



Harold Reynolds  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia



Christopher A. McGraw  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia