



**ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DUNN-OLIVER ACADOME BOARD ROOM**

**AUGUST 8, 2014  
2:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The reconvened meeting of the Alabama State University Board of Trustees was called to order by the President of the Board, The Honorable Robert L. Bentley at 2:00 p.m. in the Dunn-Oliver Acadome Board Room at Alabama State University.

The President of the Board introduced two new Board Members, Trustee Pamela Ware and Trustee Ralph Ruggs and both were sworn in by the President of the Board, Robert Bentley.

**II. INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Trustee Robert E.L. Gilpin.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Upon completion of roll call, President Gwendolyn Boyd, affirmed a quorum. Board Members present were: President Robert L. Bentley, Lucy Baker, Buford Crutcher, Robert Gilpin, Alfreda Green, Taylor Hodge, Bobby Junkins, Jeffery Langham, Angela McKenzie, Ralph Ruggs, Larry Thornton, Pamela Ware and Herbert Young.

**V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

President Bentley moved to adopt the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Thornton.

Trustee Young asked a question regarding the Agenda. He wanted a legal Opinion from the University Legal Counsel concerning the formation of the Agenda and also what did the Bylaws state on the formation of the Agenda. University Counsel, Kenneth Thomas, stated that the Agenda should be prepared by the Chairman of the Board in conjunction with the President and it should be submitted to board members five days (5) prior to the board meeting. Trustee Young wanted to be clear on which legal counsel should represent the Board of Trustees, the university or the governor's legal advisor. There was a lengthy discussion on the formation of the Agenda.

Trustee Hodge wanted to make changes to the Agenda. Trustee Gilpin moved that the Agenda be accepted as presented. President, Robert Bentley called for a vote. Nine (9) voted in favor of motion to accept the Agenda and three (3) opposed the motion.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Election of Board Officers to Fill Vacancies of Chair and Vice-Chair**

President Robert Bentley called for the election of offices as stated in the Bi-Laws. Each Trustee was given a Ballot to vote for Chair and Vice-Chair. President Robert Bentley stated that the Trustee's name who was casting the Ballot should be printed and signed on each Ballot. (Attachment A).

#### **Votes for Chair of the Board as follow:**

9 votes for Trustee Larry Thornton

4 votes for Trustee Herbert Young

#### **Votes for Vice-Chair of the Board as follows:**

7 votes for Trustee Locy Baker

4 votes for Trustee Alfreda Green

1 Trustee (Locy Baker) did not vote any candidate

Trustee Young stated that he would be sending to the President of the Board Conflict of Interest complaints regarding a Trustee and Coca-Cola and another

concerning a Trustee interfering with the hiring process at Alabama State University. President, Robert Bentley stated that he would welcome such report.

## **2. Discussion of SACS Warning and the University's Response due September 2014**

Dr. Boyd stated that she wanted to clarify to all parties that the university is placed on a 6 month warning and that ASU has not lost accreditation. The report to SACS will be submitted on time.

## **3. Financial Report by Wanda Smith, Vice President for Business and Finance**

Vice President Wanda Smith was introduced by President Boyd. Vice President Smith provided information on financial statistics and shared her perspective of the state of fiscal affairs of the university. Vice President Smith stated that in order to survive and move forward, our financial focus will be on "revenue producing" and "cost cutting" strategies.

She stated the as she prepares the Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, the main focus will be "revenue producing" and "cost cutting" strategies. She said that since it is too late to increase tuition for this Fall Semester 2014, especially since tuition was raised by 5% Fall 2013. It would be considered for the 2015 Spring Semester. She stated that she is preparing a final recommendation for President Boyd. After her review and approval, we will present a proposed budget to the Finance Committee for consideration.

## **4. Attorneys Payments by Firm for Fiscal Year 2014**

Ms. Wanda Smith reported expenditures of fees for external legal firms. University Counsel, Kenneth Thomas noted that the legal fees that were presented were not all attorney Fees, some were settlement cost.

The President of the Board, Robert Bentley, noted that the state of Alabama law states that outside counsel by all universities in the state of Alabama have to be approved by the Legislative Counsel before obtaining outside counsel. He stated that this is not being done by any university in the state of Alabama. President Robert Bentley said that all universities should be mindful and abide by this law.

## **5. President's Report**

1. Dr. Boyd introduced Bernard Houston, ASU's new Chief of Staff, Wanda Smith, VP Business and Finance, Diane Alexander, VP Technology Services, Zillah Fluker, VP Institutional Advancement.
2. ASU is moving forward with the Colluquy partnership for our online graduate programs. Projected revenue hand out was distributed to display the projected revenue. (Attachment B)
3. ASU faculty and staff are preparing to swarm the dorms from Wednesday to Saturday for the students return to school. ASU will be using two off campus apartments and security and transportation will be provided for these students.
4. Career Services Office is moving to the student center. Also the previous director has retired and we are looking for a replacement.
5. ASU is preparing to open the office of Veteran Affairs.
6. As of August 1, the staff has returned to a five day work week, since the 4 day work week was in place for summer semester.
7. SACS has placed ASU on a 6 month warning and ASU has not lost accreditation.
8. ASU has an opportunity with the NCAA. A conference call was held yesterday to work on a \$900,000 grant, and ASU is a finalist.
9. ASU has been selected to be the host campus on September 9th with the White House Initiative on HBCUs.
10. ASU has been selected to be the host campus for the minority institution program put on by Penn State in October.

11. ASU will be the featured HBCU in October for the Tom Joyner Foundation. The show is presently pushing ASU and its fundraising efforts on the TJMS.
12. ASU's social media is breaking all records and is student driven. There has been very positive feedback about the new newsletter ASU at a glance from staff and alumni.
13. This past Tuesday was ASU's first Sting-A-Thon closing out 30-days of ASU campaign. Staff, Faculty, alumni and friends participated. The event was livestreamed all over the country and the purpose of the event was to close out the 30-days of ASU campaign. The goal of the campaign was to help restore the reserves and provide scholarships.

126,000, by over 700 donors, have been raised and 35% of the donors were first time givers to ASU.

14. Summer Camp – has been going on all summer and now the ASU students have returned for the fall semester.

Trustee McKenzie asked Dr. Boyd if she can send to her a copy of the Interdisciplinary Team Members.

## VII Other Business

1. Reversal of the \$100,000 transfer from the general Fund to the Board of Trustees' Account.

Trustee Young stated that it should be noted that there was never a \$100,000 request in the Board of Trustees' account. Vice President Smith affirmed by showing Trustee Young the form that had been signed by former Chair Elton Dean to transfer the \$100,000 to the Board of Trustee Account, that there was a Budget Adjustment Request for \$100,000 to the Budget of the Board of Trustees and it was denied. She stated that after the denial the Budget Analyst remove it from the Budget.

### 2. Proposed Personnel Actions

Dr. Boyd stated that we are moving forward with Colluquy, Extended On-Line Program and this program requires Board vote.

Upon motion by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Hodge the Board approve to accept Colluquy.

Trustee Green asked if we had funding for this Program. Provost Wilson answered in the affirmative and that we do not have to pay immediately. Provost Wilson said that it would be funded in the 2014 – 2015 Budget. The motion passed unanimously with Trustee Crutcher opposed the motion.

Dr. Boyd apologized for omitting the introduction of Mr. Ed Moore, of the Leadership Team and then she introduced him as Director of Human Resources.

Trustee Young stated that according to the Bylaws all personnel actions should be submitted to the Board Members within five (5) days prior to Board Meetings and therefore personnel actions cannot be voted on at this time. The President of the Board agreed and said this item would be introduced at the next Board Meeting. Trustee Young also said that there are no listings of any contracts. All contracts needed to be given to Board Members five (5) days prior to Board Meetings, and he would like to see the list of contracts at the next meeting.

Trustee Young still had concerns about what he reported earlier, of a trustee's interference in the process of hiring of a new employee.

Trustee McKenzie asked about the proper procedures for voting on a new hire if you were not in agreement.

Trustee Green had concerns about the *Resolution of Hiring Freeze* that was passed and if we were violating that Resolution.

Vice President Smith stated that a budget increases for Board expenses needs to be voted on it was emphasized that it should be increased up to \$30,000. The President of the Board called for a motion to amend the Agenda. It was moved to amend the Agenda by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee McKenzie. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The President of the Board congratulated Trustee Larry Thornton as being voted as Chair of the Board.


Chairman Larry Thornton gave words of thanks in his new position as Board Chair.

The meeting recessed at 3:46 p.m.



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**LARRY THORNTON, CHAIRMAN  
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



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**DR. GWENDOLYN E. BOYD  
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY TO THE  
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD  
OF TRUSTEES**

DATED: 8/8/14