

**Athens Technical College**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Phil Bettendorf  
Mr. Kyle Brown  
Mr. Tom Denny  
Judge Cheveda McCamy  
Mayor Fred Perriman  
Mr. Mike Sale  
Dr. Reginald Woods

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chair Fred Perriman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the April board meeting.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Lenzy Reid spoke about our Student Ambassadors. These students represent the college in many ways including welcoming visitors to campus and helping with tours of campus. Each student ambassador introduced themselves and their programs of study. The students included Donna Kent, Nursing Program; Will Kirkland, HVAC Program; Clayton Adams, Applied Science and Technology Program; Lilliana Cabaniss, Electrical Engineering Program; Eric Judkins-Van Buren, Computer and Networking Specialist Programs; Tiras Anderson, Networking Specialist Program; Shanice Thomas, HIMT Program, Sierra Hallett, Interdisciplinary Studies Program; Jan Kelly Gemao, Automotive Technology Program; Kailey Forehand, Interdisciplinary Studies Program; and Julio Fierro, Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Also introduced were Stephanie Austin-Campbell, Co-Advisor; Dr. Ashton Dooley, Co-Advisor; and Marchelle Sandoval, Ambassador Emeritus.

Ms. Flynt presented a PowerPoint presentation on our Career Plus High School Program. This program is an innovative initiative that allows qualified students to complete their high school diploma and get college credentials at the same time. We were one of the first two technical colleges to start the program.

There are certain eligibility requirements that students must meet to be a part of the program including being 18 years of age or older, having withdrawn from K-12 and/or homeschool, a resident of the State of Georgia, being in an adult education program, meeting the minimum TABE scores, and having interest in receiving a college credential.

To complete the program students must have two Technical Certificates of Credit (TCCs) or one diploma or one associate degree and have credits in high school courses including two English, two Social Studies, two Math, two Science and one Health/PE.

There are several benefits to the Career Plus Program including being able to enroll in college courses right away, transfer high school credits, earn a high school diploma without taking a high-stakes test, and increase your earning potential with a college credential.

When the program began in FY2020 we had nine students. We have 26 students for FY2024. In FY2020 we had no students to graduate. In FY2024 we have four students to graduate.

Fabersha Flynt introduced our EAGLE winner, Tiras Anderson, who is a graduate of the Career Plus Program. Ms. Anderson is the President of the Backpack Bridget Club and is in the PC Repair and Networking Specialist Programs. She is going to graduate in May. Ms. Anderson spoke to the board members about her education experience at Athens Technical College.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Perriman called for approval of the March 19, 2024 minutes. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve the minutes and Judge Cheveda McCamy seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Octavius Davis presented the Financial Report as of March 31, 2024. Kathryn Thomas is at a SACSCOC On-Site Visit and could not be here today.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. She presented the following new program requests to the board for approval.

The first new program request is for an Associate of Applied Science in Allied Health Professions. This will complement the revised Practical Nursing curriculum and will be offered to students who complete the LPN Program. It will be effective May, 2024.

The second new program request is for Cosmetology for Licensures at all campuses. This will be offered to Cosmetology students to receive federal financial aid funding opportunities since the diploma program will no longer be eligible for federal financial aid. It will be effective May, 2024.

The next new program is Cybersecurity which will be offered at the Athens Campus. This program will help enhance our curriculum in computer information technology. Current faculty will be able to offer the program after receiving specific industry training. It will be effective August 2024.

There are some TCCs that we would like to offer at some of the career academies in our service area. The first is Prep Cook which we would like to offer at the Greene College and Career Academy starting Fall, 2024. Courses will be offered to dual enrollment students. The second is three TCCs in Welding which will include Gas Metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, and Shielded Metal Arc Welding. We would like to offer these at the Walton County Campus beginning May, 2024.

Chair Perriman called for approval of the new program requests. Mike Sale made a motion to approve and Phil Bettendorf seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The new program requests were approved.

Dr. Douglas presented two program terminations for approval. The first program termination is for the Cosmetology Diploma Program at all campuses and sites. This program is no longer eligible for federal financial aid funding opportunities. All the current students will go through a teach-out period.

The second program termination is for the Healthcare Access Representative TCC. All current students have progressed and completed this program so there will be no need for a teach-out.

Chair Perriman called for approval of the program terminations. Tom Denny made a motion to approve and Mike Sale seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The request for program terminations was approved.

TCSG is changing the platform for online classes to Blackboard Ultra. Missy Lockhart is working with the faculty to teach them about the platform. We have to change over by Spring, 2025.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Admissions is working with Target X and the Georgia Match Program. We are No. 4 in our system for the number of applications submitted and accepted. For Summer semester we received 954 applications and accepted 411 students. For Fall semester we have received 2,679 applications so far and have accepted 1,077 students. We are No. 6 in our system for the amount of information that is requested by potential students.

Our current enrollment for Summer semester is 1,355 students compared to last Summer at 1,607 students.

We have been participating in recruitment events including one at Rock Eagle where 377 students attended. We participated in instant signing day at North Oconee High School as well as the Morgan County High School Expo. We are also working with YouthForce in Athens to recruit students.

Registration and Records is working on graduation.

The Athens Technical College Police Department is working on certification.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Al McCall gave an update on Economic Development. They are providing OSHA, forklift and CPR training to businesses.

The new driver's education class began last Thursday. They are looking at getting some new wraps for the cars.

They are providing first responder training to employees at Caterpillar.

The Georgia Academy for Economic Development held a class at the T Building last week.

There will be some CPR, AED and first aid training coming up in Wilkes County.

They provided Excel training for Oconee County Government.

They served 213 companies last year. They set a goal this year to serve 225 companies. As of last Tuesday they have served 249 companies.

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Fabersha Flynt gave an update on Adult Education. They have 85 students participating in graduation this year. She gave board members an invitation to graduation. Marchelle Sandoval will be our keynote speaker.

### **COLLEGE UPDATES**

Josh Paine provided an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. A new Nursing podcast will be released today.

He has been working on some student videos that will be released soon.

The Athens Tech Foundation annual report will be mailed out next week.

The Foundation has provided \$17,000 to students in the form of emergency funds.

The Foundation Illuminate event will be Thursday. They have 300 people attending the event. He thanked Paul Cramer and Graham Joyner who are co-chairs of the event. There is a silent auction live right now for anyone who wants to place a bid. You do not have to attend the event to participate in the silent auction.

He announced that he is leaving the college and moving to Atlanta.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She thanked Josh Paine for all his hard work at the college and wished him the best in his new endeavor.

She showed a newspaper article to the board members about FASFA. A new federal program regarding the FAFSA that was created to help students has caused nothing but barriers for students. Our financial aid staff is not able to provide assistance to students until the issue is worked out by the federal government. The staff is doing all they can possibly do given this situation.

Our high demand programs are doing great. Last year we had an 28% increase in our high demand programs including Welding, RN, and Commercial Truck Driving.

She will be attending President's Council/Leadership Summit/GOAL/RPA at the end of the month in Atlanta. She will receive our budget at that time.

Our Capital Outlay project is still in the Governor's budget. The project is phase one of the Walton County Campus renovation. We are in the process of working on phase two.

She recently attended a Presidents Roundtable. We are an underfunded college and if the budget is approved by the Governor some adjustments may be made regarding that issue.

This is her eighth year as president of Athens Technical College. There are only three other technical college president's who have been at their colleges longer than she has. She states she is blessed to serve.

She thanked the board members for everything they do to support the college.

She invited board members to attend both graduation ceremonies on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Classic Center. The academic ceremony is at 10:00 am and the GED ceremony is at 2:00 pm.

This is our last board meeting until August. She wished everyone a good Summer.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month. Chair Perriman and all the board members thanked the staff at the college for all the hard work they do.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair Perriman adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 10:00 a.m.

---

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
April 16, 2024

*Next scheduled Board Meeting: August 20, 2024*

*\* Denotes action items that require a vote for approval by the local board.*

**Athens Technical College**  
Board of Directors  
Addendum to April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2024

Dr. Kristen Douglas was informed on April 17, 2024 of curriculum revisions recommended by the state-wide Barbering faculty committee (IFCC). The notification initiates a new Barbering certificate that would benefit our students starting Fall Semester 2024. The current diploma (BA12) will no longer be eligible for federal financial aid.

Dr. Douglas asked for board approval of the new Barbering TCC and termination of the current Cosmetology Diploma via email. Becky Allen sent the email to board members on April 19, 2024 on behalf of Dr. Douglas.

In the email, Dr. Douglas asked for approval of a new program request for Master Barber TCC which would allow students to receive federal financial aid funding opportunities. It would be effective Fall Semester 2024.

In the email, Dr. Douglas also asked for approval of the termination request for the Cosmetology Diploma. All students currently in the program would go through a teach-out period. Current financial aid opportunities will continue as they progress toward graduation.

A majority of board members responded via email with their approval of the two above requests.

Email to board members as well as approval emails from board members are attached to this addendum.

---

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
April 19, 2024