

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2024
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Phil Bettendorf
Mr. Tom Denny
Mr. Tony Ferguson
Judge Cheveda McCamy
Mayor Fred Perriman
Mr. Mike Sale
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Kyle Brown

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

SWEARING IN TONY FERGUSON

Judge Cheveda McCamy swore in new board member, Tony Ferguson. Photos were taken of the swearing in ceremony.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Nicholas Rucker, the 2024 TCSG State GOAL Winner, spoke to the board. Mr. Rucker, who is a student in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program, has been very busy this year representing Athens Technical College and TCSG. He has made a radio ad and participated in the Athens CEO video shoot. He will be attending the TCSG Leadership Conference in Savannah in October and visiting the State Capitol in which he hopes to be able to address the Governor.

He was elected the class president and is looking forward to graduating in May, 2025. He would like to invite board members to participate in the PTA massage clinic coming up. All proceeds will go toward their class trip to Houston.

Kathryn Thomas introduced Scott Anderson, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Information Technology. Mr. Anderson presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the board members on our facilities projects. We have a new Commercial Truck Driving range at the Walton County Campus. The Culinary kitchen on the Walton County Campus was recently renovated to include new equipment including a walk-in cooler.

The stucco issue on the outside of Building A on the Athens Campus was fixed. There was water getting into the stucco when it rained and causing damage. The irrigation issues at Building N have been fixed. The building kept flooding and mold developed. It was renovated on the inside and new furniture will be arriving on August 20th and 31st. The DAP Program will be moving into the building.

A water coil broke in Building B and flooded some of the halls with hot water. Carpet was replaced with flooring. Several parking lots have been resurfaced and re-stripped. Buildings M, N, and O are getting new paint on the outside. Dr. Daniel was able to get funding for a new roof on Building F, which is needed. There are several leaks taking place in the building.

Mr. Anderson would like to give kudos to some faculty and students on campus who have helped with some issues and was able to get them fixed and save the college thousands of dollars in repairs. Billy Moyers and some of his Welding students replaced a broken back entrance on the 200 wing at the Walton County Campus. The AC unit at Building M on the Athens Campus went out. Coleman Simmons and some students installed a new unit. Coleman Simmons and Billy Moyers, along with some students from both programs, installed a new compressor for the Welding lab on the Athens Campus. Mr. Anderson thanked all of these people for caring so much for the college and volunteering their time to help with these issues. It really saved the college a lot of money.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the April 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

Kathryn Thomas presented the FY2025 Annual Operating Budget. The budget is broken down by funding source. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the FY2025 Annual Operating Budget. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve and Tom Denny seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The FY2025 Annual Operating Budget was approved.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. She presented a new program for approval, Automation and Robotics Technology Program. This program will prepare students for positions as advanced manufacturing maintenance and repair technician and engineering technologists. The program is needed to support a new industry moving to the area.

Dr. Douglas asked for approval of the Automation and Robotics Technology Program. Judge Cheveda McCamy made a motion to approve and Dr. Reginald Woods seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The Automation and Robotics Technology Program was approved.

Dr. Douglas asked for approval to terminate the Business Technology Program which will include the degree, diploma and all TCCs associated with the program. This program is proposed for termination due to a three-year trend of low enrollment and low awards/graduates. All students in the program will go through a teach-out period so they may complete the program.

Dr. Douglas asked for approval of the termination of the Business Technology Program. Tony Ferguson made a motion to approve and Phil Bettendorf seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. Termination of the Business Technology Program was approved.

eCampus is doing very well. We are hosting several courses including Chemistry, Math and Paralegal.

Dual enrollment has over 1,015 students. Of those students 109 are DAP students.

The Culinary Program has been postponed at the Greene Career Academy. She hopes to offer it at a later date.

She is working on an \$8 million grant which is partnered with Southern Crescent Technical College, Georgia Piedmont Technical College and Gwinnett Technical College. If we get the grant, Athens Technical College will receive \$4 million. The grant is focusing on EV and EV technicians.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. This is the second day of Fall semester. For Fall 2023 we had 4,170 students and 31,364 credit hours. For Fall 2024 we have 4,459 students and 33,935 credit hours which is a 7.6% increase from last year. We turned in a goal with TCSG to enroll 4,308 students and we surpassed that goal by 79 students.

He thanked everyone for all of their hard work with enrollment. It was a campus wide effort, and he greatly appreciates it.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall gave an update on Economic Development and the Elbert County Campus. They recently gave a tour of the Elbert County Campus to a group of Japanese.

Practical Nursing class is full with a cohort of twelve students.

The Commercial Truck Driving Program on the Elbert County Campus is full as well.

There are 64 dual enrollment students in the Health Sciences Program.

They will be providing a dual enrollment orientation workday for students.

They recently provided forklift training to Dole and Hitachi.

They are working on scheduling forklift, Servsafe and OSHA training to Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell.

They recently completed Servsafe training for Saucehouse BBQ as well as OSHA training for Kubota.

Caterpillar has asked for some CNC customized training.

The driving part of the driver's education class is finishing up. They are getting quotes for new wraps to go on the cars used for the driver's education class.

Fall cohort for CNA will begin September 5th.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt gave an update on Adult Education. They are finishing FY2024 on a good note. They met six of their eight metrics.

For FY2025 they are looking at workplace literacy. They will be working with several counties including Oconee, Clarke and Madison as well as Madison, Georgia.

She is working to spread the word on how important technical education is.

She had ten students who transitioned from Adult Education to Post Secondary Education.

Dr. Flynt was congratulated by the board for obtaining her doctorate. She thanked the board members for their support.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She let the board members know that each one had an Athens Technical College neck fan at their place. She hopes they will enjoy them.

She will be presenting the State of the College at the September board meeting.

She thanked Dr. Kristen Douglas who attended the Clarke County Planning Department Meeting. They are interested in a Commercial Truck Driving Program for Clarke County, however, the county has shown no interest or reached out to her about this. We will need the county's support for the program.

Dr. Daniel passed out a letter from Dr. Sonny Perdue, Chancellor for the University System of Georgia to Dr. Miguel Cardona, Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education. This letter addresses the major issues with FAFSA, which is an application that students fill out to see if they are eligible to receive the Pell grant. The Federal Government announced that batch corrections will not be available this year or next year. There are thousands of records with conflicting information and we are not allowed to correct the information. There are 21% of students' FAFSAs that are lost. These are FAFSAs that we may never receive. All of these issues are causing us to possibly lose potential students. She wants the board to know that this is a Federal Government issue and not an issue with our Financial Aid Office. She is meeting with Dr. Cardona next Friday to address all the issues. She thanked all the staff in our Financial Aid Office for all of their hard work and diligence in trying to help students.

She has been asked to be a delegate for the Investiture of Dr. David Barnett at Brenau University on Thursday.

The 2024 TCSG Leadership Conference in Savannah is coming up October 21st – 23rd. Please let Becky Allen know by Friday if you plan to attend the conference this year.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Perriman adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 10:05 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
August 20, 2024

Next scheduled Board Meeting: September 17, 2024

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