

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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. Philip Bettendorf
Mr. Kyle Brown

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Nicole Parker presented a PowerPoint presentation on Bioscience at Athens Technical College. The Bioscience Associate Degree Program prepares students for work in a wide range of fields including cell-based therapies, research, pharmaceutical applications, environmental science, and genetics. Bioscience helps provide many things that we come in contact with each and every day including vaccines, biofuels, bioplastics and genetically modified crops (GMOs).

Bioscience is very important in the State of Georgia who is known for its high-quality workforce. Georgia has the potential to have 48,000 workers in occupations related to Bioscience. Bioscience in Athens-Clarke County is growing through different targeted strategic sectors including biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, healthcare and life sciences and craft beverages, brewing and distilling. There are many biotechnology companies in Athens-Clarke County, including a new one called Meissner who is moving to our area from California. Meissner will need to fill approximately 1,800 jobs once they have located here.

Athens Technical College offers a Bioscience Associate Degree Program along with three Technical Certificates of Credit (TCCs) including Biological Sciences Laboratory, Environmental Chemistry and Regulatory Compliance. When she came to the college the program had some retention issues which she and others at the college have figured out and been able to fix through a program redesign. Students will now be better able to complete the rigorous program. The program currently has sixteen students enrolled with the average age of the students being twenty-one.

She thanked several people for their support and assistance with the program including Dr. Brent Beall, Dean Stuart Frew and the program's advisory committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the October 2024 minutes. Tony Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes and Tom Denny seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Kathryn Thomas presented the Budget Amendments. There are several budget amendments this month, including funds from TCSG and external grants/contracts. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the budget amendments. Tom Denny made a motion to approve and Judge Cheveda McCamy seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The budget amendments were approved.

Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of October 31, 2024.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. Dr. Douglas presented a new program request for approval, Computer Help Desk Career Launch TCC. This TCC is designed to prepare students for an entry-level position in a computer support or help desk position. The TCC will be offered as an Integrated Education and Training (IET) program through our Adult Education program. This will provide students with adult education and literacy activities while preparing them for the workforce.

Dr. Douglas asked for approval of the Computer Help Desk Career Launch TCC. Michael Sale made a motion to approve and Judge Cheveda McCamy seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The Computer Help Desk Career Launch TCC was approved.

Dr. Douglas requested termination of four TCCs including Culinary Nutrition Assistant, Retail Merchandise Manager, Restaurant Manager, and Small Business Marketing Manager. For the past three academic years, these TCCs have had no enrollment nor graduates. The courses that comprise these TCCs are offered in specializations offered in program areas in Business Management, Marketing and Culinary Arts.

Dr. Douglas asked for approval to terminate Culinary Nutrition Assistant, Retail Merchandise Manager, Restaurant Manager, and Small Business Marketing Manager TCCs. Judge Cheveda McCamy made a motion to approve and Dr. Reginald Woods seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. Termination of Culinary Nutrition Assistant, Retail Merchandise Manager, Restaurant Manager, and Small Business Marketing Manager TCCs were approved.

They are working on a probe response for the Industrial Systems Technology Program. We are rebranding the program which has been voted on by our faculty and college. We will be doing some renumbering and renaming to the program to make it more aptitude for the industry.

We are getting ready for the Paramedicine site visit on December 2nd and 3rd.

She is still working on articulation agreements with other colleges. She has been working with Piedmont University to renew our current agreements with them.

Faculty is still working hard on the transition to Blackboard Ultra. The Deans have reviewed the courses created by the faculty. An orientation has been created for students to learn about the new system.

The GOAL, Rick Perkins and EAGLE awards for the college will be announced during a ceremony tomorrow in the auditorium.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. We are getting towards the end of Fall semester. We are up 7.7% for this semester compared to Fall 2023. Spring 2025 semester is looking good so far. In Spring 2024 we had a total of 3,428 students enrolled. As of right now we have 1,715 students who have filled out applications and 1,032 who have been admitted. We are also accepting applications for Fall 2025 semester. So far, we have 400 applications and have accepted 111 students.

November is Apply to College Month. We have been participating in recruiting events within our service area and outside our service area. We have been invited to participate in events in Jackson, Banks and Newton counties. We have attended high school career fairs in Gainesville, Franklin County and Loganville.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall presented an update on Economic Development. They have sixty dual enrollment students for Spring 2025 semester on the Elbert County Campus.

There will be a cow show held in the arena on the Elbert County Campus on February 1, 2025.

They recently held a forestry forum on the Elbert County Campus with thirty-one participants.

They are providing a lot of Excel training to different companies including Oconee County Government.

They recently held a forklift train the trainer for Leggett and Platt as well as CNC training for Caterpillar.

There is a CNA class currently being held.

Students are taking the driving part of the driver's education class.

They are developing a leadership ladder program for companies to use.

We are hosting the Madison County Chamber Industry Roundtable in December.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt presented an update on Adult Education. She is excited to announce the Accelerated Academy is launching in January 2025. This is going to help students who are committed to getting their GEDs completed quickly. Through this program students can obtain their GEDs in three days. Students will sign up to take their GED ready tests before entering the academy and will receive a cut score. They must get a score of at least 147 to move on to take their GEDs. Students who do not get the score to move into the academy will be filtered into the Adult Education Program. Students who obtain the needed score will then go to an orientation and move on from there to taking their GEDs. Each day students will receive instruction on two courses in the morning and will then take the two tests in the afternoon.

We are one of four technical colleges providing the Accelerated Academy. The other three technical colleges are Central Georgia Technical College, Coastal Pines Technical College, and Southern Crescent Technical College.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Antoine Boynton presented an update on Public Relations and the Athens Tech Foundation. They are doing some radio ads for HSE with a company called Education Matters. These ads will include interviews from Dr. Fabersha Flynt and Adult Education faculty members.

November is Apply to College Month. They are running ads to help recruit students and they are doing good so far.

He is working with our website host to do a pixel to help track students.

They are working on a "Meet ATC" campaign which will include videos of faculty, staff, students and alumni. The ads are thirty seconds long and will focus on meeting the people of ATC. He played a recent video that was completed by a staff member.

We are participating in the DFACS Secret Santa program again this year.

Athens Tech Foundation scholarships will close tomorrow. We have 184 applications and will be awarding \$58,000 in scholarships.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President's Report. It was a good TCSG Leadership Conference in Savannah last month. She thanked Tony Ferguson and Ruth Tellano-Daniel for attending. During the conference Nick Rucker was presented a check from the Athens Tech Foundation for the remaining funds he and his classmates needed for their class trip. He was speechless when presented with the check. He has been attending events and meetings on behalf of the college and is doing a great job representing the college.

Al McCall graduated from the TCSG Senior Leadership Academy while we were at the conference in Savannah. The next class will start in January 2025. She has submitted Dr. Fabersha Flynt to be a part of the next class.

She passed out an article about the college that appeared in the James Magazine. She thanked Antoine Boynton and his team for working with James Magazine on the article.

She attended the Walton County Campus renovation kick-off meeting yesterday. The timeline for building occupancy will be April 20, 2026. We will be picking the construction and management firm for the project in December.

Board members received their college holiday ornaments.

Next week is Thanksgiving and she wants to let the board members know how thankful she is to have them on the board. She wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season.

This is the last board meeting for this year. Our next meeting will be January 21, 2025.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month and thanked them for always arriving on time for the meetings. He also thanked Dr. Daniel and her team for everything they do for the college and community.

Dr. Reginald Woods thanked Chair Perriman for everything he does for the board.

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
November 19, 2024

Next scheduled Board Meeting: January 21, 2025

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