

**Athens Technical College**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Athens, Georgia  
March 29, 2016  
10:30 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Barbara Cabaniss  
Ms. Rebecca Dally  
Ms. Polly Fievet  
Mr. Scott Hardigree  
Mr. Todd Henry  
Mr. Robert Motley  
Dr. Mixon Robinson  
Mr. Lawton Stephens

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Rusty Adams  
Mr. Terry Chandler  
Mr. Jimmy Parker  
Mr. Lawton Stephens

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

Ms. Carol Williams, Board Member Emeritus  
Ms. Jamie Swedberg, 2016 Athens Technical College GOAL Winner  
Mr. Yobani Rodriguez, 2016 Athens Technical College EAGLE Winner  
Ms. Lisa Sherriffs, Athens Tech Foundation Board Member

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Dr. Mixon Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. welcoming everyone to the March board meeting.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chair Robinson welcomed Ms. Carol Williams, Board Member Emeritus.

Chair Robinson congratulated Dr. Andrea Daniel on being named the next president of Athens Technical College. She begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chair Robinson thanked Mr. Scott Hardigree for agreeing to serve a fourth term on the board and an additional term as Vice Chairman. Chair Robinson asked for a nomination to extend Mr Hardigree's term as Vice Chairman for another year. Mr. Steve Hollis made a motion and Mr Todd Henry seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. Mr. Scott Hardigree was elected to serve an additional one year term as Vice Chairman for the board.

In speaking with the Athens Tech Foundation board of trustees, it has been decided to wait on having a joint meeting between the boards. The Foundation board has too much business to take care of at their next meeting. Maybe a joint meeting can be arranged later in the year.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Jamie Swedberg, 2016 Athens Technical College GOAL winner, presented to the board. She is honored to be named the college's GOAL winner and is excited to be representing the college. She is a student in the Biotechnology Program and is currently taking her internship at Merial which she is hoping will turn into a full time job. Ms. Swedberg will be graduating this year.

Mr. Yobani Rodriguez, 2016 Athens Technical College EAGLE winner, presented to the board. He is thrilled to be named the college's EAGLE winner and looks forward to all the great opportunities it holds. After many years of struggle, he came to Athens Technical College to obtain his GED and learn to speak English. After getting his GED he has gotten a promotion at work and then obtained a job position at their corporate office. Mr. Rodriguez wishes to continue his education with a post secondary degree.

Dr. Thaxton presented a video entitled "Success in The New Economy" which the Commissioner has shown to the State Board and the presidents are showing to their local boards. It looks at the new economy and how it's changing the world including the skills and training that is now needed to succeed.

Chair Robinson and Dr. Andrea Daniel presented Dr. Thaxton with gifts from the board members and Vice Presidents in appreciation for everything she has done for the college. Dr. Daniel, Ms. Kathryn Thomas, and Chair Robinson each spoke about the impact that Dr. Thaxton has made on the college and the many things she has accomplished.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Robinson called for approval of the February minutes. Rebecca Dally made a motion to approve the minutes and Steve Hollis seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Kathryn Thomas presented the Budget Amendments for March 29, 2016. There are three additions from TCSG which include Carl Perkins Carryover Funds, Georgia Worksmart Apprenticeship Grant, and DFCS Training Center funds.

Ms. Thomas asked the board for approval of the Budget Amendments. Steve Hollis made a motion to approve and Robert Motley seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The Budget Amendments were approved.

Ms. Kathryn Thomas presented the Budget Summary Report as of February 29, 2016. The report includes local funds, contracts, grants, renovation and repair funds and equipment funds. Some of the renovation and repair funds will be expiring at the end of the fiscal year but we have projects lined up that the funds will be used on before they expire.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Ms. Caroline Angelo gave the board an update on Academic Affairs. Eleven people from the college attended the Achieving the Dream Conference in Atlanta last month. The conference was very informative with a lot of good sessions. The college was able to send more people to the conference this year since it was in Atlanta instead of out of state.

Our Achieving the Dream Core Team meets once a week and the Data Team meet once a month. All of these meetings are geared toward student success.

We will be starting a writing lab soon which will assist students with writing papers.

We have decided to put the General Education Division back together as one division again. Last year, after Dr. Carol Myers, Dean of General Education, retired, it was divided up. After some discussion, it was decided that it's best for students if it was a division on its own. Now all the sections, English, math and science will go back together as one division called Division of General Education and Online Learning. Dr. Mary Clare DiGiacomo will be the Dean of this Division.

She has been meeting with superintendents, high school principals, CTAE directors, and career academies in our service area to discuss pathways for high school students. We want to create portfolios for students taking CTAE classes so they can obtain credit for classes before they start Athens Technical College. These portfolios will help students better articulate from high school to college.

This week we are administering the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) to students. The survey wants to know about students' experiences at college. There is also a faculty version which will be administered next month.

We are in the process of reviewing and making updates for Academic Year 2017 which starts in August.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Ms. Jennifer Benson gave the board an update on Student Affairs. They are gearing up for Fall Semester enrollment. For the first time this year students are able to register for Fall Semester at the same time they are registering for Summer Semester. Students are taking advantage of the opportunity.

Ms. Benson invited board members to upcoming events: Honor's Day on April 7<sup>th</sup> and Spring Fling on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Graduation will be at 10:00 am on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Classic Center. Our guest speaker this year will be Mr. Peter Hennessy from Hennessy Automotive Group. We will be providing bus transportation from the college to the Classic Center. The buses will run every fifteen minutes.

She has hired two new directors in her department, Mr. Justin McCalla, Director of Admissions, and Mr. Dustin McDaniel, Director of Financial Aid. Mr. McDaniel was the Assistant Director of Financial Aid.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Andrea Daniel introduced Mr. Antoine Boynton, our new Public Relations Director.

Dr. Daniel spoke about the upcoming Manufacturing Appreciation Week which was created by Mr. Gus Whalen, who passed away last year. The Manufacturing Appreciation Luncheon will on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The college will be providing transportation for those who wish to ride. So far fifty-eight people have confirmed their attendance. This is the first year Caterpillar was able to be nominated in the large company category. She thanked Mr. Todd Henry for his help on the application. Dr. Daniel encouraged board members to attend.

Schools participate in an art contest during Manufacturing Appreciation Week. We have two local winners this year. We have a first place winner from South Hart Elementary School and a third place winner from Malcom Bridge Elementary School. These students will get their photo taken with the Governor.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Ms. Stephanie Benson gave the board an Adult Education update. We just had our first Georgia Best Certification Ceremony. Thirty-six students received their certification in soft skills training from the Georgia Department of Labor. Four of the students were offered jobs that day.

Ms. Benson passed out a flyer announcing an upcoming Spring into your Career Block Party on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Walton County Campus. The event will inform people about our Adult Education Program. There will be food, live entertainment and door prizes.

GED Graduation will be at 2:00 pm on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Classic Center. Our special guest speaker will be Mr. Ed Benson from Benson Hospitality.

## **College Update**

Ms. Jennifer Griffeth gave the board members an update on the Athens Tech Foundation. She introduced Ms. Lisa Sherriffs who is on the Athens Tech Foundation Board of Trustees.

Tickets are available for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual LuOwl which is May 6<sup>th</sup>. She passed out flyers for the event. Tickets are \$60 per person. If anyone is interested, there are sponsorships available. Last year the event raised \$15,000 which went toward scholarships for students. Ms. Griffeth thanked Mr. Rusty Adams and Star Granite for their sponsorship.

The Foundation just awarded \$250 scholarships to the GOAL and EAGLE winners.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Thaxton thanked everyone for all of their hard work and support while she has been at the college. She feels like many good things were accomplished while she was here. She will be back at North Georgia Tech on Monday. Dr. Daniel will officially start on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Chair Robinson asked board members to share activities they have been involved in lately or any upcoming activities. No one had anything to report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 11:45 a.m.

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Dr. Gail Thaxton, Interim President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
March 30, 2016

*Next scheduled Board Meeting: April 28, 2016.*

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