

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
November 14, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast. Board Chair Harold Reynolds called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. Present, in addition to Board Chair Reynolds, were Vice Chair Erin Hames; Regents Doug Aldridge; Tom Bradbury; Richard T. Evans; W. Allen Gudenrath; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; James M. Hull; Cade Joiner; Patrick C. Jones; C. Everett Kennedy III; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford; Lowery Houston May; Jose R. Perez; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; T. Dallas Smith; and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

George Moore, Student Government Association President at the University of Georgia, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

Mike Coverson, Chief of Police, gave the safety briefing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Regent Jose R. Perez and seconded by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 3 and 4, 2023, Board meeting.

**CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT – “MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA”**

Joe Dan Banker, USG Director of Military Affairs and U.S. Navy Retiree, led the Campus Spotlight, “Military Affairs in the University System of Georgia.” Mr. Banker began his presentation by introducing some military terminology and facts. He stated that Georgia ranks number nine in the union by having 750,000 veterans, which makes for an incredible workforce pool to draw from. Mr. Banker also expressed that veterans already have a work ethic and a lot of military experience. He continued by sharing that USG services all active duty, Georgia National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and the spouses and dependent children of every one of those groups. Mr. Banker stated that USG refers to this group as Military Connected Students and that this is a more inclusive term. He also reported that Military Connected Students have educational benefits such as the current VA Post 9/11 GI Bill. Next, Mr. Banker introduced four Military Connected Students who shared their experiences and success as a part of this group. First to present was Gabriela Castillo, U.S. Army Veteran and University of Georgia (UGA) undergraduate student. Ms. Castillo discussed her experience as a veteran pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology from UGA. She stated that while in the Army she worked alongside various medical professionals which allowed her to create a vision for her life. Ms. Castillo stated that in the near future she plans to apply to and attend medical school in Georgia. Following Ms. Castillo, Cheyenne Helsel, Captain, U.S. Army, and Columbus State University (CSU) graduate student, shared her experience as a military connected student. Captain Helsel is currently serving in the Army, while earning a

master's degree. She stated that her leadership position requires her to work with diverse teams and CSU has taught her how to motivate and bring these dynamic, diverse people together through proper communication. After Captain Helsel spoke, Jasarah Boynton, U.S. Army Veteran, and Georgia Southern University (GSU) undergraduate student, discussed her experience as a veteran and non-traditional student at GSU. Ms. Boynton is earning her bachelor's degree in psychology. She shared that after completing her bachelor's degree that she plans to earn a master's degree in clinical psychology. Ms. Boynton also shared that after she enrolled in GSU that she had challenging times which led her sleeping in her car as shelter for three days. She explained how the military resource center at GSU helped her get a place to live. Ms. Boynton shared that she will be the first person in her family to earn a college degree. Lastly, Nadja Walrith, U.S. Army Veteran, Gordon State College (GSC) undergraduate student, shared her experiences. Ms. Walrith discussed how she was destined to be in the military. She said that her father was in the Navy and other family members are enlisted in the military as well. Ms. Walrith continued by saying enlisting in the military was the furthest thing from her mind and that she wanted to be a registered nurse. She went on to share that she did not have the grades for that, so she enlisted in the Army. Ms. Walrith continued by saying that she developed PTSD while in the Army and that she has had some struggles; however, the faculty at GSC have been great a support and she is looking forward to earning her degree.

### **RECESS**

The Board recessed for track committee meetings.

### **ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Dr. Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor of Research and Policy Analysis, gave an update on Fall Semester enrollment throughout the University System of Georgia. Among other findings, she reported that Fall enrollment for 2023 stands at 344,392, comprised of 150,643 students in research universities, 94,207 in comprehensive universities, 62,332 in state universities and 37,210 in state colleges. Her report showed that compared to last Fall the System had an overall increase of 9,933 students or 3%. Dr. Bell reported that this increase sets a new all-time high for the USG's enrollment; twenty-three institutions had an increase in enrollment and three institutions had a decline in enrollment this Fall.

### **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Sonny Perdue gave his monthly report. He began by stating that it was good to see everyone at the final Board meeting for the calendar year. Chancellor Perdue also noted that Veteran's Day was the Saturday prior to the meeting and made mention that USG has 20,000 veterans and military connected students within the System. He continued by saying that the System is proud to honor their service by making a home for them at USG, that USG is grateful to those who have protected our country and those who still do, and that one of USG's top priorities is to support the System's veteran and active-duty military personnel by helping them pursue their higher education goals. Then, Chancellor Perdue mentioned that Thanksgiving was approaching and conveyed how grateful he is for the hard work of USG's staff and the twenty-six colleges and universities. He continued by thanking the Board for guidance and support in addition to the time and attention given to critical issues faced by public higher education. Also, Chancellor Perdue continued by thanking Chairman Reynolds and Vice Chair Hames for their leadership and guidance. He commended them for being strong advocates for USG's students and public higher education, as well as spending a considerable amount of time working with the Board and the staff

to keep USG moving forward. Chancellor Perdue continued by thanking Vice Chair Hames for her role and sharing her knowledge and expertise. He went on to say that USG looks forward to continuing to work with Vice Chair Hames for the betterment of the System.

Chancellor Perdue continued his report by thanking USG's presidents, faculty, and staff for a great fall semester. He stated that enrollment has been challenging for colleges nationwide, especially coming out of the pandemic, however, the trends this fall are up nationally, averaging about two percent for undergraduates and up under one percent for graduate enrollment. Chancellor Perdue stated that USG is doing so well because of campus leadership and the employees that the students interact with daily. He continued by saying that USG puts students first and that is reflective of the System's enrollment numbers. Chancellor Perdue stated that everyone on campus is responsible for the recruitment and retention of students, and everyone makes a difference in a student's life. He continued by saying USG has a responsibility to welcome and make students feel at home and to remove as many barriers as possible for them to achieve their goals, and making sure that they know that they have a place in the System. Chancellor Perdue congratulated everyone for their efforts in this process.

Chancellor Perdue continued his report with the awarding of the Chancellor's Cup. He reminded everyone of the purpose and award process for this distinction, by which the System Office awards four institutions, one institution in each of the USG's sectors, that had the highest fall enrollment growth by percentage change over last year with a trophy, the Chancellor's Cup. Chancellor Perdue stated that there were some repeat winners from the summer, along with some new winners as well. He presented the Chancellor's Cup to the presidents of the respective winning institutions, which were as follows: Georgia's first designated Hispanic-serving institution, Dalton State College, for the state colleges sector, with an increase of 8.2%, trophy received by the college's newly appointed president, President Fuchko; Georgia Southwestern State University, for the state universities sector, with an increase of 11%, trophy received by President Weaver; the University of West Georgia, repeat winner, for the comprehensive universities sector, with an increase of 7.2%, trophy received by President Kelly; and Augusta University, repeat winner, for the research universities sector, with an increase of 7.5%, trophy received by President Keel.

Chancellor Perdue continued his report by acknowledging that President Keel has announced his retirement for the summer of 2024. He stated that President Keel has led Augusta University through a period of significant growth and transition and that growing enrollment is just one of several successes under his leadership. Chancellor Perdue thanked President Keel for his service and noted that USG has started a national search for the university's next president.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reports of the standing committees are attached hereto.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Harold Reynolds gave remarks upon the final regular Board meeting of 2023. He noted that there have been many accomplishments and some challenges this year. Chair Reynolds thanked Chancellor Perdue, the staff, faculty, and students across USG and commented that none of the accomplishments would have happened without their hard work over the past year. He also recognized the Board's agreement on common priorities, such as, economic development, policies that ensure viewpoint diversity on USG's campuses, and a focus on student success. Chair

Reynolds addressed the high priority the Board places on freedom of expression and the importance of diverse viewpoints on our campuses and noted that the Board reaffirmed its commitment to these principles in April 2023. He noted that in light of recent events people have freely expressed support for the Israeli people, the Palestinians, and Hamas. He explained that he personally finds the views of Hamas to be dangerous and that one can easily ascertain the reality of Hamas' views in their own charter. He cited this as an example of the importance of teaching critical thinking in USG.

Chair Reynolds mentioned that the Augusta University Health System (AUHS) merger with Wellstar was a great success and will offer learning and research opportunities, expanded healthcare, access and patient care for more Georgia communities, while increasing the pipeline of physicians serving the State. He also remarked that the team that worked on the AUHS / Wellstar transaction was tremendous. He also thanked Governor Kemp for his outstanding support of the System as well as for support in the legislature. Chair Reynolds acknowledged the parents of USG's students, sponsors, the USG Foundation, and others not directly a part of the System for their support and contributions for Georgia students to earn degrees.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Erin Hames presented the committee report of the Executive and Compensation Committee including the Board's discussion of its annual self-assessment and stated that the conversation will continue in January 2024 Board meeting as well as the Committee's recommendations that Regent Harold Reynolds serve again as Chair and that Regent T. Dallas Smith be elected to the role of Vice Chair of the Board for 2024. The Board members present voted unanimously to approve the election of these officers for 2024.

The Board will not have another regularly scheduled meeting until January 17, 2024. Upon a proper motion and variously seconded, the Board members present voted unanimously to delegate to Chancellor Sonny Perdue the authority to take action in the Board's interest until the Board meets again in January 2024.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Secretary to the Board Christopher McGraw announced that there were no timely petitions or communications for the Board to consider and that the next Board of Regents meeting will be held on January 17, 2024, at the Board's offices in Atlanta.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Chair Harold Reynolds called for an executive session at approximately 12:35 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. With a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May and variously seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

### **RECONVENE**

Following executive session, Board Chair Harold Reynolds reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 1:18 p.m. and announced that no action was taken in executive

session.

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Jose Perez, the Board voted unanimously pursuant to Board Policy 2.11 to name Dr. Bonita Jacobs as President Emerita at the University of North Georgia.

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Jose Perez, the Board voted unanimously pursuant to Board Policy 2.11 to name Dr. Margaret Venable as President Emerita at Dalton State College.

Upon a motion by Regent Jose Perez and seconded by Vice Chair Erin Hames, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Don Green to the position of President of Gordon State College, effective November 15, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion properly made by Regent Jose R. Perez and seconded by Regent T. Dallas Smith the meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.



Harold Reynolds  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia



Christopher A. McGraw  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE AND COMPENSATION**

The Committee on Executive and Compensation of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at approximately 9:01 a.m., in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Harold Reynolds called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Reynolds, were Committee Vice Chair Erin Hames; Regents C. Everett Kennedy, III; Samuel D. Holmes; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; T. Dallas Smith; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Jose R. Perez; C. Thomas Hopkins; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford; James M. Hull; Doug Aldridge; Tom Bradbury; W. Allen Gudenrath; and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

1. The Committee discussed the Board's annual SACSCOC Self-Assessment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

2. Upon a motion by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr. and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board that Regent Harold Reynolds serve as Chair and that Regent T. Dallas Smith serve as Vice Chair of the Board for 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, and upon motion properly made by Regent C. Everett Kennedy, III and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:32 a.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Academic Affairs of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Lowery Houston May called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair May, were Committee Vice Chair Samuel D. Holmes; Board Chair Harold Reynolds; Board Vice Chair Erin Hames; Regents Tom Bradbury; W. Allen Gudenrath; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Cade Joiner; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford; Jose R. Perez; and Patrick C. Jones.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Upon a motion by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the Committee approved the termination of the Post- Baccalaureate Certificate in Radiology Sciences at Georgia Southern University.
2. Upon a motion by Regent Tom Bradbury and seconded by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames, the Committee approved the institutional mission statement reaffirmation for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

3. The Committee approved the establishment of the UGA Foundation Professorship in Computing, at the University of Georgia.
4. The Committee approved the establishment of the Dianne Isakson Distinguished Professorship at the University of Georgia.
5. The Committee approved the establishment of the Johnny Isakson Distinguished Professorship at the University of Georgia.
6. The Committee approved the establishment of the Thomas and Kristin Golub Professorship in Risk Management and Insurance at the University of Georgia.
7. The Committee approved several named faculty positions at Georgia State University, Augusta University, University of Georgia.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and upon motion properly made by Committee Vice Chair Samuel D. Holmes and seconded by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:14 a.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION & LAW**

The Committee on Organization and Law of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at approximately 10:14 a.m., in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Sarah-Elizabeth Langford called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Langford, were Committee Vice Chair Tom Bradbury; Board Chair Harold Reynolds; Board Vice Chair Erin Hames; Regents Lowery Houston May; W. Allen Gudenrath; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; Cade Joiner; Patrick C. Jones; and Jose R. Perez.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

1. Upon a motion by Board Chair Harold Reynolds and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Committee approved the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree by the Georgia Institute of Technology to Christopher C. "Chris" Womack.
2. Upon a motion by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Committee approved the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Fort Valley State University to Alonzo Jones, Sr.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Committee Chair Sarah-Elizabeth Langford called for an executive session at approximately 10:17 a.m. to discuss personnel matters and student records. With the motion properly made by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by Regent Samuel D. Holmes, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

Upon a motion properly made by Regent Cade Joiner and seconded by Board Vice Chair Erin Hames the Executive Session was adjourned at approximately 10:26 a.m. No actions were taken in the Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, and upon motion properly made by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:27 a.m.



**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

The Committee on Finance and Business Operations of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at approximately 10:09 a.m., in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Neil L. Pruitt, Jr. called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Pruitt, were Committee Vice Chair Doug Aldridge; Regents Richard T. Evans; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; James M. Hull; C. Everett Kennedy, III; T. Dallas Smith; and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

1. The Committee received an information item on FY 2024 First Quarter Financial Update.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES**

The Committee on Real Estate and Facilities of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at approximately 10:20 a.m., in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair T. Dallas Smith called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Smith, were Committee Vice Chair C. Everett Kennedy, III; Regents Doug Aldridge; Richard T. Evans; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; James M. Hull; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

1. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2404, Progressive Workspace for Enterprise Innovation Institute, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
2. The Committee authorized project number BR-50-2401, Central Bus Facility, for Georgia State University.
3. The Committee authorized project number BR-90-2402, Carmichael Student Center Renovation: Welcome Center, for Kennesaw State University.
4. The Committee authorized project number BR-10-2403, Center for Vaccines and Immunology, Phase III, for the University of Georgia.
5. The Committee authorized project number PPV-68-2401, Dining Hall Renovation, for the University of North Georgia.
6. The Committee approved the modified naming of the Hannah Daniel Tennis Court at Georgia Southern University.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

7. The Committee approved the naming of the Charles H. Wheatley Building at the University of Georgia. The motion to approve was made by Regent James M. Hull and seconded by Regent Doug Aldridge.
8. The Committee approved the naming of the Thomas A. Fanning Student-Athlete Performance Center at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The motion to approve was made by Regent C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., and seconded by Regent Doug Aldridge.
9. The Committee approved the acquisition of real property located at 142 and 150 Oconee Street in Athens for the University of Georgia. The motion to approve was made by Regent Richard T. Evans and seconded by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.
10. The Committee authorized the execution of a development agreement, space lease, and rental agreement for project number J-348, Expansion of Tech Square, Phase IIIA, for the

Georgia Institute of Technology. The motion to approve was made by Regent C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., and seconded by Regent Doug Aldridge.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:28 a.m. following a motion from Regent C. Everett Kennedy, III, and a second from Regent Doug Aldridge.

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AUDIT, RISK AND COMPLIANCE**

The Committee on Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at approximately 10:28 a.m., in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair James K. Syfan, III called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Syfan, were Committee Vice Chair C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Board Chair Harold Reynolds; Board Vice Chair Erin Hames; Regents Doug Aldridge; Richard T. Evans; James M. Hull; C. Everett Kennedy, III; Neil L Pruitt, Jr.; and T. Dallas Smith. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Committee Chair James K. Syfan, III called for an executive session at approximately 10:28 a.m. to discuss ongoing investigations as well as personnel issues. With the motion properly made by Regent C. Everett Kennedy, III and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board. The Executive Session was adjourned at approximately 10:59 a.m. No actions were taken in the Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:59 a.m.