

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
March 15, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in the Board Room, Room 8003, 270 Washington Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia. The Chair of the Board, Regent C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. Present, in addition to Chair Hopkins, were Vice Chair James M. Hull; and Regents C. Dean Alford; W. Paul Bowers; Rutledge A. Griffin, Jr.; Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Laura Marsh; Doreen Stiles Poitevint; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Reed; Sachin Shailendra; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III; Richard L. Tucker; T. Rogers Wade; Larry Walker; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regents E. Scott Smith and Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr., were excused.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Georgia Gwinnett College Student Government Association President Tammy Lu gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

Chief of Police Bruce Holmes gave the safety briefing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With motion made and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board's Feb. 14, 2017, meeting.

**CONSOLIDATION UPDATE**

At approximately 9:35 a.m., Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness John Fuchko presented to the board a mission statement for the proposed consolidation of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and Bainbridge State College. With motion made and variously seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the mission statement as presented. A copy of this mission statement and a recording of Mr. Fuchko's remarks are on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

**CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, COMPLEX CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH**

At approximately 9:37 a.m., University of Georgia President Jere Morehead and Professor Alan Darvill made a presentation to the Board concerning the university's Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. The CCRC has since September 1985 sought to answer the national need for a center devoted to increasing knowledge of the structures and functions of complex carbohydrates, according to Dr. Darvill, the center's founder and director. The CCRC's 17 interdisciplinary research groups study the structures and functions of the complex carbohydrates of plants, microbes, and animals to determine the role of carbohydrates in growth and development, host-pathogen interactions, and disease processes. The CCRC also is home to the University of Georgia Cancer Center, which endeavors to train cells to attack breast cancer cells, President Morehead said. It also houses four federally-designated centers for carbohydrate research, providing analytical services to scientists in university, government, or industrial laboratories. A copy of President Morehead's and Dr. Darvill's presentation, and a recording of their remarks, is on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Steve Wrigley gave his report to the Board around 12:51 p.m. The Chancellor built on Dr. Alan Darvill's remarks on research policy. The university system engages in the two most fundamental aspects of innovation, knowledge creation and knowledge transfer, Dr. Wrigley said. Industry has shifted in the last century from reliance upon individual, privately-held laboratories to form partnerships with research universities, making use of their talent, expertise and creative ability. Dr. Wrigley shared several examples of collaborations with private industry or sponsored by the federal government, which he stressed are a top priority for USG campuses.

Chancellor Wrigley concluded his remarks by sharing with the Board various highlights from, and accomplishments at, System institutions, as well as a historical note regarding the Ides of March. An audio recording of Chancellor Wrigley's remarks is on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

**ACADEMIC RECOGNITION HONOREES**

At approximately 1:05 p.m., Dr. Christina Hobbs welcomed and recognized the 2017 Academic Recognition Honorees. An audio recording of her remarks is on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reports of the standing committees are attached hereto.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Regent Wilheit reminded those gathered of the impending Regents' Salute to Education, commonly called the Regents' gala, hosted at the St. Regis Hotel.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

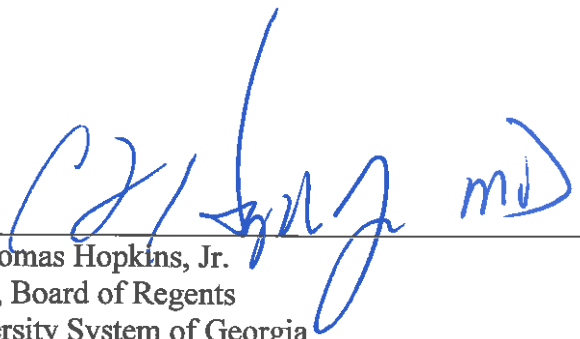
Assistant Secretary to the Board Kimberly Ballard-Washington announced the next Board of Regents meeting would be April 18-19, 2017, at the College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick, Georgia.

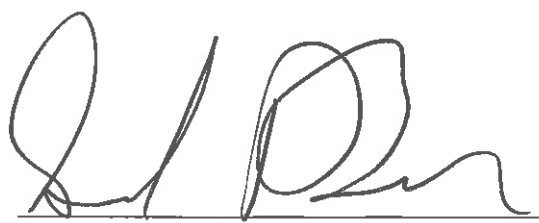
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 1:20 p.m., Chair Hopkins called for an executive session to discuss personnel and compensation matters. With motion properly made and unanimously seconded, the Regents voted unanimously to go into executive session. University System of Georgia staff members who were also present for portions of the executive session included Chancellor Wrigley and members of his staff. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board. Chair Hopkins reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 2:10 p.m., and announced that the Board took no actions during the executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:11 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

  
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C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia

  
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Samuel C. Burch  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia

**MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

The Executive & Compensation Committee of the Board of Regents met at 9:06 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in room 8026 of the Board's offices in Atlanta. Board Chair C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chair Hopkins, were Regents W. Paul Bowers; Rutledge A. Griffin, Jr.; James M. Hull; Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Laura Marsh; Doreen Stiles Poitevint; Sachin Shailendra; Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III; T. Rogers Wade; Larry Walker; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 9:07 a.m., Chair Hopkins called for an executive session to discuss personnel matters. With motion made and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file in the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

Chair Hopkins reconvened the committee in its regular session at approximately 9:15 a.m. and announced that the committee took no actions during executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs met at approximately 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in the first floor conference room (Room 1101) at the Board's offices in Atlanta. Committee Vice Chair Doreen Stiles Poitevint called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Vice Chair Poitevint, were Regents C. Dean Alford; W. Paul. Bowers; Rutledge Griffin, Jr.; Laura Marsh; Sarah Elizabeth-Reed; T. Rogers Wade; and Larry Walker. Regent E. Scott Smith was excused. Unless otherwise noted below, the Board unanimously approved all items.

1. The committee heard an information item on teacher education and saw a presentation update concerning Complete College Georgia.
2. The Board approved establishment of a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Integrated Studies at Augusta University.
3. The Board approved establishment of a Doctor of Education with a major in Higher Education Leadership and Practice (includes online delivery) at the University of North Georgia.
4. The Board approved the termination of 20 Associate of Applied Science programs at the University of North Georgia, which are on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.
5. The Board approved establishment of several endowed and named faculty positions and appointments, copies of which are on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.
6. Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Martha Venn provided an update concerning early childhood undergraduate programs transitioning to referral instead as elementary education degrees. Dr. Venn further discussed how proposed program renamings are consistent with national, disciplinary, and state trends, and align with guidelines from the Professional Standards Commission.
7. Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Rob Anderson presented a Complete College Georgia update, concerning baseline activities from FY2010 to current initiatives as of FY2016. Three areas of focus were part of the discussion: developmental and remedial education, math pathways, and program maps.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs met at approximately 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in the first floor conference room (Room 1101) at the Board's offices in Atlanta. Committee Chair Larry Walker called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chair Walker, were Regents C. Dean Alford; W. Paul. Bowers; Rutledge Griffin, Jr.; Laura Marsh; Doreen Stiles Poitevint; Sarah Elizabeth-Reed; and T. Rogers Wade. Regent E. Scott Smith was excused. Unless otherwise noted below, the Board unanimously approved all items.

1. The Board authorized Georgia Southern University to enter into mutually beneficial aid agreements with the City of Statesboro and the Bulloch County Sheriff's Office.
2. The Board approved Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College President David Bridges' and University of West Georgia President Kyle Marrero's requests to award honorary degrees to Mr. Jay Shaw and Mr. Steve Adams, respectively.
3. The Board approved an addition to the Policy Manual, 12.10 Freedom of Expression, to take effect March 31, 2017, and appended hereto as Appendix A.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 11:00 a.m., Chair Walker called for an executive session to discussing personnel matters and student records. With motion properly made and seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file in the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

Chair Walker reconvened the committee in its regular session at approximately 11:45 a.m. and announced the committee took no actions during executive session.

4. The Board approved reversing the institutional decision made in appeal 2425.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:46 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND  
INTERNAL AUDIT, RISK AND COMPLIANCE**

The Joint Committees on Finance and Business Operations and Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Don L. Waters called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chair Waters, were Regents Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sachin Shailendra; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III; Richard L. Tucker; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. was excused. Board Chair C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., and Chancellor Steve Wrigley also were present.

1. Ms. Jennifer Thomas, Deputy Director for the Education Audit Division, Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, presented an information item on the Fiscal Year 2016 Financial engagement results for the University System of Georgia.
2. Associate Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs Claire Arnold presented a summary of audit trends and action plans to address Fiscal Year 2016 State Audit findings.
3. Associate Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs Claire Arnold presented an information item on the Fiscal Year 2016 Consolidated Annual Report for the University System of Georgia. The Fiscal Year Consolidated Annual Financial Report was provided to the Board members in advance of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 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 at approximately 10:20 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta Georgia. Committee Chair Don L. Waters called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chair Waters, were Regents Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sachin Shailendra; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III; Richard L. Tucker; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. was excused. Board Chair C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., and Chancellor Steve Wrigley also were present.

1. Vice Chancellor for Internal Audit & Chief Audit Officer Mr. Terry Thompson assisted by Vice Chancellor for Organization Effectiveness John Fuchko provided an update on recently completed internal audits at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, Clayton State University, and Kennesaw State University.
2. Clayton State University President Dr. Tim Hynes presented an update on their status in implementing corrective actions in response to both the internal audit and their state auditor's external review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:57 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

**COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE & BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

The Committee on Finance & Business Operations of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:58 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III, called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chair Tarbutton, were Regents Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sachin Shailendra; Richard L. Tucker; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. was excused. Board Chair C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr. and Vice Chair James M. Hull also were present.

1. Augusta University President Brooks Keel and Executive Vice President for Administration & Finance/CBO Anthony Wagner provided an update on the Augusta University Medical Center's current financing plans. The AUMC plans to refinance existing short-term variable rate debt with fixed rate long-term debt and borrow additional funds for capital projects.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON REAL ESTATE & FACILITIES**

The Committee on Real Estate & Facilities of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 11:31 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Richard L. Tucker called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chair Tucker, were Regents Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sachin Shailendra; Benjamin J. Tarbutton; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. was excused. Board Chair C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr. and Vice Chair James M. Hull also were present. Unless noted otherwise, the Board unanimously approved all items below.

1. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Design and Construction Sharon Ferguson Pope presented an informational item on contracting and qualifications-based selection for calendar year 2016.
2. The Board authorized the execution of a rental agreement for athletic facilities at the University of Georgia.
3. The Board authorized the execution of a rental agreement for athletic facilities at Georgia Institute of Technology.
4. The Board authorized the execution of ground leases and rental agreements for four public- private venture projects at South Georgia State College in Douglas.
5. The Board approved the demolition of a building at 401 Ferst Drive, N.W., Atlanta, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
6. The Board authorized project number BR-10-1706, Sanford Stadium West End Improvements, for the University of Georgia.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

### *12.10 Freedom of Expression*

The rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, including the right to free speech, free expression, free exercise of religion, and the right to assemble peaceably are of the utmost importance, and the University System of Georgia is committed to protecting those rights.

As public institutions of higher education, USG institutions must promote open ideas and academic freedom on their campuses. While institutions may need to enact policies to promote campus safety, to ensure the proper functioning of the academic environment and institution activities, or to further other important institution objectives, those policies should not unduly burden the free expression rights of students, faculty, and staff. Any parameters placed on the time, place, and manner of expression must not be based on the content of the expression.

To facilitate the free exchange of ideas, institutions may designate accessible, high-traffic locations on campus as public forum areas. The designation of public forum areas may not be used to prohibit individual students, faculty, or staff from engaging in communication elsewhere on campus. Reservation and use of designated public forum areas may only be required in the following limited circumstances: (1) speakers who are not enrolled at or employed by the institution; and (2) students, faculty, or staff who engage in large group demonstrations. Institutions may not consider the content or viewpoint of expression when requiring or assigning use of public forum areas.