

# Athens Technical College

Board of Directors Meeting

WebEx Minutes

August 18, 2020

9:00 A.M.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kyle Brown  
Mrs. Barbara Cabaniss  
Mr. Dennis Cobb, Jr.  
Mrs. Rebecca Dally  
Mr. Tom Denny  
Judge Robert Motley  
Judge Lawton Stephens  
Dr. Reginald Woods

## MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Steve Hollis  
Mr. Jimmy Parker  
Mayor Fred Perriman

## CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

## ROLL CALL

Becky Allen, Executive Assistant in the President's Office, called the roll.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Glenn Henry provided board members a PowerPoint presentation on Athens Technical College's response to COVID-19. Coronaviruses is a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. There is currently no vaccine for prevent the coronavirus.

The coronavirus pandemic started back in March and is still going on today. Shortly after the pandemic started Athens Technical College was forced to stop face to face instruction for students. All classes went to online. For Spring semester we started having limited labs for students. Online classes continued to be offered along with limited labs for Summer semester.

Door signage concerning the coronavirus has been posted on every entrance door. Large posters and individual sized handouts containing CDC approved information are being posted in all college buildings. The college has purchased large amounts of personal protection equipment (PPE) to include over 10,000 face masks, over 750 N95 and KN95 masks, over 10,000 pairs of gloves, hand sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer. We are also installing splash guards, air purifiers, and social distancing signs in all areas of the college and in classrooms.

We have created a rapid response team to respond to concerns about sick students with COVID-19. The Athens Technical College Police Department is notified and then a healthcare faculty with PPE will respond to evaluate the student.

Stephanie Benson presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board concerning Adult Education Dual Enrollment Options. Career Plus High School Equivalency is a new pilot program that allows students to combine previously earned credits and completed portions of the GED test with technical college credits to earn their high school equivalency. There are five technical colleges in the pilot program including Athens Technical College.

There are 1,083,602 adults without a high school diploma in Georgia. Approximately 10,000 GED diplomas are issued each year in Georgia. Career Plus HSE requirements include students who are 18 years old and over, resident of Georgia and eligible for financial aid, enrolled in an adult education program, meet the minimum TABE scores, and interested in receiving a college credential. There are many programs included in Career Plus HSE including Agricultural Science, Automotive Technology, Bioscience, Phlebotomy, and Networking Specialist. There is an emphasis on programs that qualify under the HOPE Career Grant since it pays 100% tuition.

We are on track to having our first graduate in our system. Currently we have the most active dually enrolled students.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Dally called for approval of the June minutes. Tom Denny made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Reginald Woods seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Kathryn Thomas presented the FY2021 Annual Operating Budget. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the FY2021 Annual Operating Budget. Judge Lawton Stephens made a motion to approve and Barbara Cabaniss seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The FY2021 Annual Operating Budget was approved.

Ms. Thomas presented an approval to have the Compass Church building demolished. This building was obtained in 2012 by the college during a land swap. The building has greatly deteriorated over the years and would cost too much to renovate. We are asking for approval to get the building demolished. Dr. Reginald Woods made a motion to approve and Dennis Cobb seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The Compass Church building was approved to be demolished.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Glenn Henry presented an update on Academic Affairs. Fall semester classes will be offered in three different ways, online, hybrid or face to face. We will also be offering hands on labs. Fall semester is our busiest semester of the year.

Veterinary Technology Program will have a virtual site visit in October.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Jennifer Benson gave the board an update on Student Affairs. They have been registering students for Fall semester which begins on Monday.

The number of dual enrollment students has recently doubled to 821 students for Fall semester.

We currently have 3,890 students registered for Fall semester.

Our new welcome center opened in July. They normally see between 80 – 90 visitors a day. However, yesterday they saw 140 visitors.

Graduation was held a couple of weeks ago with over 500 students and family members attending.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Al McCall gave the board an update on Economic Development. They have to refocus and look at different funding options for their CNA and ManufactuREADY classes.

Driver's education class started yesterday.

They are seeing an increase in forklift training. Working on a contract to train 200 employees at a plant.

They are providing QuickBooks, Excel and Serve Safe limited labs.

They have 93 dual enrollment students at the Elbert County Campus.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Stephanie Benson gave the board an update on Adult Education. They have resumed GED classes. There were 197 students this Summer.

Working on providing students with online classes with Blackboard.

## **COLLEGE UPDATES**

Antoine Boynton gave board members an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. He thanked Chair Dally and the Walton County Foundation for their scholarship donation to the Athens Tech Foundation.

The Athens Tech Foundation has 216 scholarship applications for Fall Semester.

He has been working with scholarship recipients to have their stories told about what it means to receive a scholarship.

He is currently updating photos for all the programs as well as expanding ads to include them on Facebook and Instagram. He is also looking at doing something with Snapshot.

He will begin filming student testimonials in September.

Georgia United Credit Union is hosting an ice cream social for employees and will be providing ice cream sandwiches tomorrow from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm in the student center.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She thanked Chair Dally and the Walton County Foundation for their scholarship donation to the Athens Tech Foundation in the memory of Jimmy Hogg.

She thanked the board for approval of demolition of the Compass Church building. Representatives Houston Gaines, Tom McCall, Marcus Wiedower, and Senator Frank Ginn have been big supporters of this project.

The Agricultural Science Building on the Elbert County Campus is set for a final date of construction in August 2021.

She has been working on completing SACSCOC work while serving on the board of trustees.

Graduation went very well and she has received good responses. She is happy to report that no COVID-19 cases have been reported from the event.

The TCSG Commissioner has moved the payment deadline to the end of the term.

Currently we have no testing requirements and application fees have been waived for students.

She has worked to extend the scholarship deadline to Friday.

When it is safe to, we will be have a ribbon-cutting event for our new welcome center.

In the future, she will be honoring Terry Chandler, who retired from the board and Barbara Cabaniss for her work as Chair on the board.

Dr. Daniel recently found out that Lanier Technical College is closing their Commercial Truck Driving Program. She got in touch with their president, Dr. Ray Perren, and asked if he would consider letting us have his four tractor-trailers. He agreed to it and we will be adding them to our program soon on a lease basis until the time (if and when) they add the program back to their course offerings.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Dally asked board members if they had anything to report. Dr. Reginald Woods welcomed Dennis Cobb to the board. He also mentioned how he is happy to serve on the board and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Chair Dally also thanked everyone for all of their hard work and spoke about serving on the board.

Kyle Brown mentioned the Commercial Truck Driving tractor-trailers that pass by his house on a daily basis and how he is happy to be a part of the college.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Dr. Andrea Daniel, President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
August 18, 2020

*Next scheduled Board Meeting: September 15, 2020*

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