

Athens Technical College

Board of Directors Meeting

WebEx Minutes

January 18, 2022

9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kyle Brown
Mrs. Barbara Cabaniss
Mrs. Rebecca Dally
Mr. Tom Denny
Mr. Steve Hollis
Mayor Fred Perriman
Judge Lawton Stephens
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Judge Robert Motley

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

ROLL CALL

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Glenn Henry presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Walton County RN Program. There is a nursing shortage in the State of Georgia. In January, 2019 industry numbers showed there were more than 31,000 registered nursing positions that needed to be filled around the state. There are 1,402 RN jobs available in Walton County.

Currently Athens Technical College has an RN program on its main campus that seats 50 students per year. Potentially there are 110 RN students in this program. By adding the Walton County Campus this number will increase to 170 RN students. Piedmont Athens Regional has entered into an agreement with the college for five years to establish an RN program at our Walton County Campus.

The goal is to start the program Summer semester of 2022. There will be cohorts of 25-30 students accepted into the program each year. We gained approval from the Georgia Board of Nursing in November, 2021 and submitted a request for approval to the Accreditation Committee for the Education in Nursing (ACEN) in December, 2021.

Mr. Henry presented on the possibility of the Respiratory Therapy Program being brought back to the college. We closed the program due to the lack of being able to recruit credentialed faculty to teach the program after the sudden death of our Program Director.

Starting in January, 2022 CoARC will once again accredit Associate Degree programs in Respiratory Therapy due to the critical staffing shortages across the US made even worse by the pandemic. Piedmont Athens Regional has reached out to the college to see if the program could be restarted. We submitted a proposal to them for a five year plan which calls for \$1.7 million dollars to restart the program and funding for five years. The program will be housed on the main campus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Dally called for approval of the November minutes. Mayor Fred Perriman made a motion to approve the minutes and Judge Lawton Stephens 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 three budget amendments this month, which include Federal Perkins Funds, Equipment Funds and Lost Revenue Recovered by Federal Funds. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the budget amendments. Tom Denny made a motion to approve and Mayor Fred Perriman seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The budget amendments were approved.

Ms. Thomas presented the Financial Report as of December, 31, 2021.

Ms. Thomas presented a PowerPoint presentation showing photos and updating board members on Facilities' projects that are currently taking place. The new Industrial Systems Building is in the construction review phase. This building will be located on the main campus and will house Air Conditioning Technology, Industrial Systems Technology, Megatronics, and Economic Development.

The second project is our new Agriculture Science Building on the Elbert County Campus. It will consist of two buildings, one will house classrooms and labs, the other will be an arena. This project is almost complete and is in the final stage.

The next project is the J 100 Building parking lot. The previous parking lot had huge cracks and drainage issues. There was an area next to that was a gravel parking lot for students. These two parking lots have been combined and will be replaced with a new parking lot with nice landscaping.

The last project is the J 100 Building mechanical system and building update. We are putting up sheetrock on the walls and a new mechanical system that will be computerized.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Glenn Henry presented an update on Academic Affairs. Spring semester is in its second week and is off to a good start. We are still dealing with some Covid issues.

He is working on Summer and Fall semesters. Students will be able to register for both semesters at the same time.

Dr. Christina Wolfe was just hired as the new Dean of Business, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing. She begins this week.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Enrollment for Spring semester is at 3,524 which is down 5% from last Spring semester. Credit hours are down 6% from last Spring semester.

There will be a ceremony on Thursday at 2:00 pm to celebrate the GOAL, Rick Perkins and EAGLE winners.

On February 1st Oconee County counselors will be on campus. We will be doing a breakfast and tour for them.

Our Police Department is working on updating the Emergency Operations Plan and will be submitting that to TCSG soon.

They are working with students who are getting ready to enter competitive programs at the college.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall gave the board an update on Economic Development. Driver's Education class just finished up. Another virtual class is starting today.

They are working with the Young Farmers Association in Hart County to provide some training.

Providing training to RWDC, which is a new company in the area.

They are also providing Servesafe and CPR training.

Just finished a Welding Program at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hart County.

ADULT EDUCATION

Stephanie Benson gave the board an update on Adult Education. They have been working on completing their Cognia template and should have it finished by the end of January.

She has gotten back QEP survey results, which were given to faculty, staff and students.

Dual achieve classes are on track and should be completed by the TCSG deadline.

They are working on the SACSCOC compliance certification.

She got Servesafe approved as an IET to work with Economic Development. We will be using Truist Bank funds to pay for it. Students will receive a \$540 stipend when they are finished with the program.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Josh Paine gave the board an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. He is working to update the college campus maps.

Will be launching a new Podcast interviewing students, faculty and staff. The first Podcast will launch next month. He will also be doing one on low enrollment.

He is meeting with a firm today that will be assisting in updating our website content and strategy.

He will be working to promote new programs including the Agriculture Program and Conservation Law Program.

Thomas Dickerson, one of our Automotive Collision Repair students will be on the History Channel this weekend.

There will be an Athens Tech Foundation Board Meeting on Thursday. They will be welcoming six new members to the board.

He thanked Jen Welborn for all of her hard work getting everything finalized at the end of the year.

He also thanked the board members for their contributions to the Athens Tech Foundation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She presented a potential new board member, Ruth Daniel, to the board for approval. Ms. Daniel is from Hart County and is a Nurse Practitioner at St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital in Lavonia. She will need approval from the Local Board and then it will go before the State Board for approval. Dr. Daniel asked the board for approval of Ruth Daniel as a new board member. Judge Lawton Stephens made a motion to approve and Tom Denny seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. Ruth Daniel was approved by the board.

Dr. Daniel shared her Vision for 2022 with the board members. There are several key items that she would like to work on:

- Enrollment. She would like students to have more access to the college and to programs. She has asked for new enrollment ideas from the vice presidents to improve enrollment. She is also looking at low enrollment programs and how to improve them.
- SACSCOC Compliance Certification. This document, for meeting and measuring standards, has to be prepared by the college and sent to SACSCOC.
- New Programs. Working on promoting new programs including Conservation Law Program, RN Program at the Walton County Campus, Industrial Systems and Megatronics.
- Rivian. This is a new electric truck company that is coming to Georgia. They will be located in Walton County and Morgan County. They will employ 7,500 new employees in their first round of hiring.
- SK Battery. She has been assisting with this new company. They will be visiting campus tomorrow.
- New Employees. She would like to make new employees feel more connected to the college. Economic Development is creating a program with classes for new employees to take and familiarize themselves with the college.

She will be attending the February State Board Meeting along with Michael Burnett who is the CEO of Piedmont Athens Regional. He will be presenting a check to the college during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

She will be at President's Council next week.

She is proud of Thomas Dickerson, a student from the Automotive Collision Repair Program. He restored a Mustang and was invited to attend the SEMA Show in Las Vegas. He will be on the History Channel on Sunday.

Dr. Daniel announced that Glenn Henry is retiring from the college. She appreciates his dedication and she thanked him for everything he has done for the college.

Mr. Henry spoke about his time at the college and thanked everyone for their hard work. He thanked Dr. Daniel for giving him the opportunity and support. He is proud to be a part of the college and is hoping to return in a part-time teaching capacity.

She thanked the interview committee that was responsible for the Vice President of Academic Affairs interviews. This committee included Kathryn Thomas, Stephanie Benson, Lenzy Reid, Stuart Frew, and Octavius Davis. She and Kathryn have completed the second round of interviews and have selected their top candidate.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Dally asked board members if they had anything to report. Barbara Cabaniss thanked Dr. Daniel for the beautiful Christmas ornament. She also thanked Lenzy Reid for assisting her and a student who was getting close to graduation and needed a little extra help.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
January 18, 2022

Next scheduled Board Meeting: February 15, 2022

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