

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Phil Bettendorf
Mr. Kyle Brown
Mr. Tom Denny
Mayor Fred Perriman
Mr. Mike Sale
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Judge Cheveda McCamy

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Lenzy Reid introduced Dr. Ashton Dooley, Director of Student Activities. Dr. Dooley invited the board members to attend the GOAL winner announcement ceremony on January 24th. Mr. Reid introduced the first GOAL finalist, Maggie Carlson, who is a student in the Radiography Program. She was nominated by Krissy King, her instructor. Mr. Reid introduced Julio Fierro who is a Consumer Economics major. He was nominated by his instructor, Kay Helms. Mr. Reid introduced Eric JudkinsVanBuren who is a Computer Support major as well as a Computer Networking major. He was nominated by his instructor, Helen Hall. Mr. Reid introduced Nicholas Rucker who is a Physical Therapy Assistant major. He was nominated by Dr. Ellen O'Keefe and Dr. Diana Carman his instructors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the November 2023 minutes. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve the minutes and Mike Sale seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of December 31, 2023.

Ms. Thomas mentioned a new partnership with Coca Cola which revised our vending services with them. We are now offering micro markets on campus which offer a variety of food, snacks and drinks to faculty, staff and students. There are two markets on campus located in Buildings A and K. She has gotten really good feedback from them so far.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. They are preparing for a virtual accreditation visit by the Bar Association for our Paralegal Program on February 12th and 13th.

They are working on a quality assurance document for our Business Program accreditation.

She has been working with several colleges on articulation agreements. She and Dr. Daniel will be traveling to Clayton State University for an articulation agreement signing ceremony on Friday. She has also been working with other colleges about agreements including Georgia Military College, Gordon College, UGA and University of North Georgia.

Dual achievement has 80 students this semester which is an increase from 51 students last semester. She thanked Dr. Reginald Woods for being our guest speaker for the dual achievement graduation ceremony.

Dual enrollment has 116 students this semester.

We have a new apprenticeship with Rivian in which we have nine students participating. These students are in the Precision Machining Program and are working full time at Rivian.

We recently held our 2nd annual faculty forum in which we offered several good sessions during the day for faculty.

We are working on transitioning from Blackboard to Blackboard Ultra. We have until January 2025 to transition over.

She has submitted a grant proposal with the Georgia Department of Community Health for equipment for our Nursing Program at the Walton County Campus.

As you know, Carol Stanley retired in December. The new Librarian is Beth Thornton who has been with the college for many years. She could not make it to the meeting today but will hopefully be at the February meeting.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Enrollment for Spring semester increased by 13.6%. We have 3,901 students compared to 3,435 last Spring semester. Credit hours total 28,773 compared to 25,113 last Spring semester.

Mr. Reid mentioned that Kyle Brown is taking a heating and air conditioning class this semester.

We are working on the Georgia Match Program which was recently announced by the Governor. We are happy to announce that 833 students so far have expressed interest in Athens Technical College.

They are already working on Fall semester. So far 1,107 applications have been submitted and 446 students have been admitted to the college.

Financial Aid is working on downloading FAFSAs for students and processing scholarships, Pell and VA financial aid.

The Behavioral Intervention Team is still very busy assisting students with a variety of issues. This has increased since the pandemic.

The Police Department is updating the mandatory manual and working on required training.

The Information Technology Department has been busy getting the new Industrial Systems Technology Building ready for students. They have also been busy updating classrooms all across campus.

Student Activities had a great welcome back week for students including a vendor fair where 40 external vendors participated.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall gave an update on Economic Development. They are working on a partnership with the Community Colleges of Appalachia to provide Hazmat training to companies in the area.

They recently provided forklift training to Dole packaging in McDonough and Star Granite in Elberton.

They are still working with Whitworth Women's Facility to provide a variety of training.

The new driver's education class begins today.

They are providing CPR training to Caterpillar today.

ADULT EDUCATION

Fabersha Flynt thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during her recovery. They are working on the state's One to Go Campaign which is focusing on students who have only one subject to pass to obtain their GEDs. Math seems to be the one subject that students have difficulty passing. We will be offering some intensive Math bootcamps during the months of February and March for students who only need Math to get their GED.

They will be having an open house on February 20th.

She is still working on getting some new instructors hired.

They are working on a partnership with Athens-Clarke County Jail to provide an instructor in the jail for inmates to obtain their GEDs. She is hoping to start offering the classes on April 1st.

Dr. Daniel congratulated Ms. Flynt on being inducted into the Graduate Student Hall of Fame for the University of Southern Mississippi. She is currently finishing her doctorate in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Josh Paine provided an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. The Athens Tech Foundation has awarded Spring scholarships in the amount of \$15,000.

They are working on the 2024 Athens Tech Foundation Gala. He thanked Tom Denny who was the first one to buy a ticket for the event. They are excited to have Rodney Bullard as the speaker for the event. Tickets are on sale beginning this week.

The Athens Tech Foundation welcomed two new board members for 2024. They welcomed Jeremiah Bayne, Chief Nursing Officer at Piedmont Athens Regional, and John Skinner with Jackson EMC. Lori Lord is their board chair for this year.

They have been working on the Rick Perkins nominations and interviews. They had ten nominees and narrowed it down to two finalists, Kye Haymore and Coleman Simmons. Dr. Daniel will be meeting with them next week and a winner will be announced at the ceremony on January 24th.

It has been over a year since the college's new website was launched. We have had over 7,500 inquiries through the website. We recently introduced a chat box for students to interact with on weekends and holidays when there is no staff available to assist them.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She welcomed Tony Ferguson from Georgia Power to the meeting.

She is excited that we had three students graduate from the Dual Achievement Program. These students graduated with their high school diplomas as well as Technical Certificates of Credit from the college.

She thanked everyone who has worked hard with the Rivian apprenticeship program.

Overall enrollment for the system is up 7%.

She is happy to announce that full-time employees received a \$1,000 supplement in December. The Governor has also recommended in his budget for state employees to receive a 4% salary increase. This will, however, have a \$3,000 cap on it.

She thanked everyone who was able to attend the new Industrial Systems Technology Building ribbon cutting last month. She played a video of the final building created by Jeanetta Design.

The Governor recommended in his budget to include the \$9.875 million phase one renovation for the Walton County Campus. Phase two will take place next year. Funding will be in cash instead of bonds which means we can start the project sooner. The Tanner field house located on the back of the campus will be turned into a welding lab. There will be some upgrades added to the Industrial Machine Technology Program to meet their needs. The front of the building will be turned into a mini welcome center.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked Dr. Daniel and her staff for everything they do for the college. Chair Perriman asked if any board members had anything to share. Kyle Brown thanked Becky Allen for her assistance in getting him set up to take the heating and air conditioning class.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
January 16, 2024

Next scheduled Board Meeting: February 20, 2024

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