

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Philip Bettendorf
Mr. Tom Denny
Mr. Tony Ferguson
Mayor Fred Perriman
Mr. Mike Sale
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Kyle Brown
Judge Cheveda McCamy

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Coleman Simmons, Instructor for the Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Program, presented a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Simmons spoke about the new Industrial Systems Technology Building and The Training House and how both of them have benefited his students. Their new space is so much bigger and will allow for more students and better learning experience. There is new and very improved electrical work stations and areas that allow for commercial HVAC and refrigeration training. Students can work on variety of equipment including air conditioners, freezers, walk in coolers, and ice machines.

The Training House is amazing and allows students to experience actual inside and outside work environments. These simulated environments can be made hot or cold. Students are able to do sheet metal duct fabrication and installation, pull wires, brazing work, and working under the house in a crawl space.

We support our HVACR industry by hosting training sessions for their employees. The local HVACR industry supports us in many ways including donating equipment, guest speaking to students, mentoring students, serving on our advisory committee and hiring our graduates. We have been strengthening our relationship with UGA facilities. We have twelve of their employees as students last Fall semester and we are anticipating getting more for future semesters.

Enrollment has been steadily increasing every semester even in the evening classes. There are several pathways for students to take including two degrees, a diploma and some TCCs. We are happy to announce a new program that will be starting called Associate of Air Conditioning Technology.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the March 2025 minutes. Tony Ferguson 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 March 31, 2025.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. She has some new program requests as well as some program termination requests.

The first two new program requests are for Fundamentals of Medical Assisting TCC and Advanced Medical Assisting TCC, both of which would be effective Spring semester 2026. Due to a recent TCSG probe, these two certificates are new options for students pursuing Medical Assisting. The new TCCs will shorten the completion time for the students to obtain certification.

The next two new program requests are for Nurse Aide Fast Track TCC and Nurse Aide Accelerated TCC, both of which would be effective Spring semester 2026. New program request to add Certified Nurse Assistant to credit offerings using these two TCCs. The program will start in the Athens Campus lab once certified.

The next new program request is for Air Conditioning Technology Associate Degree that Coleman Simmons mentioned in his presentation. This would be effective Fall semester 2025. This would provide students with a higher level of credential with only two new courses added to the pathway which include Residential Systems Designs and Troubleshooting and Servicing Commercial Refrigeration.

The last new program request is for Cosmetology for Barbers TCC effective Fall semester 2025. This would be an add-on certificate to the Barbering Diploma which will give students a pathway to gain a Cosmetology license in addition to their Barbering license.

She has three program termination requests. The first is Medical Assisting Diploma effective Fall semester 2025. This program will no longer be needed with the addition of the Advanced Medical Assisting TCC. We will offer a teach-out period for students. Their current financial aid opportunities will continue as they progress toward graduation.

The second program termination request is for Industrial Systems Technology Degree effective Fall semester 2025. The board has already approved the new program, Automation and Robotics. With this approval the Industrial Systems Technology Program is no longer needed. We will offer a teach-out period for students. Their current financial aid opportunities will continue as they progress toward graduation.

The last program termination request is for Manufacturing Operations Specialist TCC effective immediately. For the past three academic years, this TCC has had no enrollment or graduates.

Dual enrollment staff will be attending high school graduations to provide students with extra cords to wear with their graduation regalia.

We are getting more students enrolled in our competitive programs. We are adding more seats in the classes.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Graduation will be May 6th at 10:00 am in the Akins Arena at the Classic Center.

Honor's Day will be April 25th at 10:00 am in the auditorium.

GOAL competition will be held the week of April 28th in Atlanta.

Enrollment is doing great. We had 1,860 for Summer 2024. We have 1,390 enrolled so far for Summer 2025. We already have 2,921 applications so far for Fall 2025 with 1,638 being admitted to the college.

We are happy to announce that our students came home with twelve gold medals from the Skills USA competition.

We also had several awards that our Phi Theta Kappa Chapter received at their recent competition.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall presented an update on Economic Development. He is happy to report some really good numbers for their third quarter. They served 293 companies and 3,953 individuals.

They have been working with Tony Ferguson on a Georgia Manufacturers Association meeting that will take place on April 23rd in the auditorium.

They are looking at starting an advisory committee similar to the ones that our credit programs have. They are hosting an industry roundtable on May 21st regarding the committee.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt presented an update on Adult Education. GED and Dual Achieve Graduation will be May 6th at 2:00 pm in the Akins Arena at the Classic Center.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Antoine Boynton presented an update on Public Relations and the Athens Tech Foundation. They have a few campaigns running consecutively right now. These include Adult Education, GED, online courses, "Meet ATC" and a Summer semester campaign. These all have done really well.

He is wanting to build a college brand guide so all college information has the same look. He will be meeting with Dr. Daniel to discuss this.

They have finished round two of the Institutional Advancement interviews. He thanked Kathryn Thomas and Lenzy Reid for their assistance with interviews. They have it narrowed down to three candidates which Dr. Daniel will interview. He hopes to have the position filled the first part of June.

The Illuminate Gala is Thursday at 5:30 pm. Board members were given a flyer with information regarding the silent auction.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President's Report. She is excited about the upcoming graduation. Kessel Stelling from Synovus will be the keynote speaker for the academic graduation and Dexter Fisher from Clarke County will be the keynote speaker for the GED and Dual Achieve graduation.

She is happy to announce that our police department obtained their certification in March. She thanked Mr. Reid and Chief John Gaissert for working so hard on the certification.

She attended the Red Carpet Tour last Friday. She thanked Tony Ferguson and David Bradley with the Athens Chamber for their hard work. It was a really good event. Commissioner Dozier attended as well and enjoyed the event.

She is pleased to announce that we are ahead on our graduate numbers. We have 1,714 credit graduates and 2,589 awards. Our current placement rate is 99.77% and our placed in field rate is 98.67% which is the highest we've ever had.

The next board meeting will be August 19th. This is Mayor Perriman's last meeting as he is rolling off the board at the end of the fiscal year. She thanked him for the very nice note he sent her and for serving on the board and all of his support of the college.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month. He has enjoyed serving on the board and appreciates the board's commitment to the college. This college does so much for students and is the best path for students to take to obtain the necessary skills needed in the workforce.

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
April 15, 2025

Next scheduled Board Meeting: August 19, 2025

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