

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
September 15, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast and telephonic dial in. The Chairman of the Board, Regent Sachin Shailendra, called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Shailendra, were Vice Chairman James M. Hull; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Cade Joiner; Everett Kennedy; Lowery May; Jose R. Perez; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; T. Dallas Smith; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regents Don L. Waters and Rachel B. Little were excused.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Secretary to the Board Edward Tate gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With motion made and properly seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board's meeting of August 11, 2020.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST**

Executive Vice Chancellor for Strategy & Fiscal Affairs Tracey Cook presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Operating Budget Request. The University System of Georgia (USG) is requesting \$2.36 billion, which includes increases for enrollment growth, maintenance and operations, and payback projects, and decreases related to lower health insurance costs and a reduction in payments owed to the Teachers Retirement System.

With motion made and variously seconded, the Regents present unanimously approved the FY 2022 Operating Budget Request as presented.

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Wrigley began his report by congratulating the Board, USG presidents, and the leadership teams that made it possible for all 26 USG institutions to resume in-person instruction this fall. Although the pandemic has caused new challenges, the USG continues to focus on supporting students so they achieve their academic goals, graduate, and join the workplace. The Chancellor reported that despite increases in positive COVID-19 tests on some campuses, the implementation of on-campus risk reduction efforts like social distancing and the use of masks has been effective across the System. Most of the first USG campuses that experienced initial increases have seen significant declines, and students who tested positive mostly have had mild or no symptoms and have returned to class after getting well; there have been few cases reported among faculty and staff. Chancellor Wrigley encouraged everyone to avoid large gatherings, maintain their distance, and wear face masks.

Chancellor Wrigley then mentioned several highlights from across the University System. Increasing the use of free or low-cost textbooks has been a major USG initiative during the past few years, and in Spring 2020 USG students saved \$27 million thanks to this endeavor. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College now offers 89% of course sections with free or low-cost books and materials, furthering the USG's top priorities of being more efficient and affordable. The Chancellor mentioned that a post-tenure working group was recently created to evaluate existing policy and practices and make recommendations for improvements, allowing for the modernization of policies that were created in the 1990s. Chancellor Wrigley thanked Regents Erin Hames and Harold Reynolds for agreeing to participate in the working group, which will be chaired by Dr. Kathy Schwaig, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kennesaw State University. The Chancellor congratulated Augusta University, which recently received \$500,000 from the Department of Defense

Cybersecurity Scholarship Program to continue developing students who are interested in information technology and cybersecurity. He also congratulated University of North Georgia (UNG) President Bonita Jacobs, who will officially open the university's newest standalone campus, UNG Blue Ridge, tomorrow. Lastly, the Chancellor recognized Dalton State College, which became Georgia's first and only Hispanic-Serving Institution two years ago. This federal designation makes the institution eligible for grants that benefit the entire campus, such as the \$2.1 million grant it earned last year to expand academic support services to all students. This is a fitting announcement as we celebrate Hispanic-Serving Institution Week this week.

Chancellor Wrigley concluded his remarks with a historical note. On this day in 1997, Sergey Brin and Larry Page registered the Google.com domain name for their new internet search technology, paving the way for what became a technology revolution that would alter the very fabric of our lives and everyday culture.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reports of the standing committees are attached hereto. Upon motions made and duly seconded, the Board unanimously approved and adopted the reports of the following committees:

- the Committee on Academic Affairs
- the Committee on Organization & Law
- the Committee on Personnel & Benefits
- the Committee on Real Estate & Facilities

Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr., recused himself from voting on the Real Estate & Facilities item: Non-Exclusive Easement, J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center, Watkinsville, Oconee County, University of Georgia.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Regent Harold Reynolds, Chairman of the Regents' Nominating Committee, proposed a slate of Board officers for 2021, with Regent Sachin D. Shailendra serving as Chairman and Regent Cade Joiner serving as Vice Chairman. He thanked Regents Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and Rachel B. Little for their service on the Committee.

With motion made and properly seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to elect Regent Shailendra as 2021 Chairman.

With motion made and properly seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to elect Regent Joiner as 2021 Vice Chairman.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Several letters and a petition were presented to the Board for review. Secretary to the Board Edward Tate announced that the next BOR meeting will be held on October 13, 2020, at the Board's offices in Atlanta.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

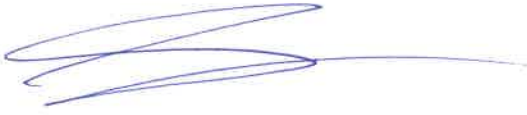
Chairman Shailendra called for an executive session at approximately 9:57 a.m. to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters. With motion properly made and seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session.

### **RECONVENE**

Following the executive session, Chairman Shailendra reconvened the Board in its regular session at approximately 11:05 a.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 11:06 a.m.



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Sachin D. Shailendra  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia



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Edward M. Tate  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 14, via a telephonic meeting in light of the Georgia Public Health State of Emergency due to COVID-19. Committee Chairwoman Erin Hames called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairwoman Hames, were Committee Vice Chairwoman Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Rachel B. Little; Lowery May; Jose R. Perez; and Don L. Waters. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Board Chairman Sachin Shailendra also were present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The Committee approved the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology at South Georgia State College.
2. The Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Science in International Affairs, Science, and Technology at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
3. The Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Science with a major in Nutrition and Foods at Georgia Southern University.
4. The Committee approved a proposed revision to *The Board of Regents Policy Manual*, Section 2.8, Institutional Mission.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

5. The Committee approved the establishment of an endowed position at Georgia State University.
6. The Committee approved the renaming of the John H. “Johnny Isakson” Chair for Parkinson’s Research to the John H. “Johnny Isakson” Chair for Parkinson’s Research and GRA Eminent Scholar at the University of Georgia.
7. The Committee approved the appointment of two endowed faculty positions at the University of Georgia.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Committee consideration, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:17 a.m. on Monday, September 14.

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

The Committee on Organization and Law of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at 9:18 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020, via a telephonic meeting in light of the Georgia Public Health State of Emergency due to COVID-19. Committee Chairman Don L. Waters called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Waters, were Committee Vice Chairman C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Rachel B. Little; Lowery May; and Jose R. Perez. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Board Chairman Sachin Shailendra also were present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **APPROVAL ITEM**

The Committee approved proposed revisions to *The Board of Regents Policy Manual*, Sections 6.7, Sexual Misconduct Policy, and 4.6.5, Standards for Institutional Student Conduct Investigation and Disciplinary Proceedings, in response to new Title IX regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Waters called for an executive session at 9:27 a.m. to discuss personnel matters and student records. With motion properly made and seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to go into executive session.

### **RECONVENE**

After the Committee exited executive session, Chairman Waters reconvened the Committee in its regular session at 10:18 a.m. and announced that no actions were taken during the executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. on Monday, September 14.

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL & BENEFITS**

The Committee on Personnel & Benefits of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020, via a telephonic meeting in light of the Georgia Public Health State of Emergency due to COVID-19. Committee Vice Chairwoman Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Vice Chairwoman Reed, were Regents Samuel D. Holmes; Cade Joiner; Everett Kennedy; Harold Reynolds; T. Dallas Smith; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Chancellor Steve Wrigley, Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra, and Regents W. Allen Gudenrath and C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., also were present. Committee Chairman Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., was excused.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Dr. Juanita Hicks presented the Retirement Waiver Approval Report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:33 a.m. on Monday, September 14.

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

The Committee on Real Estate and Facilities of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at 10:34 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020, via a telephonic meeting in light of the Georgia Public Health State of Emergency due to COVID-19. Committee Chairman Samuel D. Holmes called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Holmes, were Committee Vice Chairman T. Dallas Smith; Regents Cade Joiner; Everett Kennedy; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., was excused. Chancellor Steve Wrigley, Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra, and Regents W. Allen Gudenrath and C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., also were present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

1. Vice Chancellor for Real Estate & Facilities Sandra Neuse provided a written report of real estate actions taken within delegated authority between April 1 and August 30, 2020.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

2. The Committee authorized the granting of a non-exclusive easement at the J. Phil Campbell Sr. Research and Education Center in Watkinsville, Oconee County, for the University of Georgia. Regent Kessel D. Stelling, Jr., recused himself from voting on this item.
3. The Committee approved the naming of Edwards Hall at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:38 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020.