

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
January 12, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at 11:20 a.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 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 Cade Joiner; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; James M. Hull; Everett Kennedy; Rachel B. Little; Lowery May; Jose R. Perez; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent T. Dallas Smith was 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 November 11, 2020.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Shailendra thanked his fellow Regents, Chancellor Wrigley, University System Office staff, presidents, faculty, institutional staff, and students for their perseverance in keeping the University System of Georgia (USG) strong and successful despite a global pandemic. He emphasized the difference a college education can make in a student's life and reiterated his commitment to ensuring high-quality and accessible college education in Georgia. The Chairman thanked USG faculty and staff for making in-person instruction possible while following campus health and safety plans and emphasized that he is looking forward to implementing new initiatives in 2021.

**ETHICS TRAINING**

Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness John Fuchko conducted the Board's annual ethics training and accreditation review. He reviewed specifics related to the role of a Regent, conflicts of interest, and required state filings. Vice Chancellor Fuchko also led a review of the USG Ethics Policy, which satisfies the requirements of Board of Regents Policy 8.2.18.1.

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Wrigley began his report by welcoming everyone back from winter break. He thanked the Regents for their leadership and guidance during the fall semester despite an unprecedented level of uncertainty. This spring, 341,000 USG students will begin or continue their college careers. Direct and safe interaction with students in and outside the classroom is important for their well-being and educational development, and the USG has taken appropriate steps to emphasize in-person instruction as a vital part of campus life. The Chancellor encouraged students, faculty, and staff to continue practicing safe behaviors, including wearing masks, maintaining six feet of distance, washing their hands frequently, and not participating in large gatherings. Chancellor Wrigley thanked Governor Brian Kemp and Georgia Commissioner of Public Health Kathleen Toomey for their willingness to partner with the USG to ensure that faculty, staff, students, and their broader communities are safe.

Chancellor Wrigley spoke of the important work the USG continues to do to promote student success, including the Momentum Year initiative, which helps first-year students get on the right track toward graduation and reduce time and costs along the way. He described the work of the Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR), the

first systemwide examination of processes and organization that identified ways to operate more efficiently and redirected the resulting savings into academic initiatives. Since the CAR was initiated, the USG has freed up nearly \$113 million; campuses have used these funds to hire additional faculty members and advisors to make sure students can graduate on time. The Chancellor also discussed affordability, noting that the average annual tuition increase in Georgia has been 0.9% over the last five years. As a result, Georgia students and families pay some of the lowest tuition and fees in the nation, and 36 states have higher average tuition and fees for four-year degrees than Georgia.

Chancellor Wrigley concluded his remarks with a historical note. On this day in 1908, a French army captain named Gustave Eiffel sent a wireless message long-distance from the Eiffel Tower. The French would go on to use the tower to intercept German messages during the First World War, including those that allowed them to thwart an attack on Paris and capture the spy Mata Hari.

### **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 Executive & Compensation Committee
- the Committee on Academic Affairs
- the Joint Committees on Finance & Business Operations and Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance
- the Committee on Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance
- the Committee on Organization & Law
- the Committee on Personnel & Benefits
- the Committee on Real Estate & Facilities

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., provided an update on the 2020 USG Foundation Gala, which raises funds for needs-based scholarships. Because of the Georgia Public Health State of Emergency due to COVID-19, the 2020 gala was postponed until 2021. The new date for the event is September 9, 2021.

With motion made and properly seconded, the Regents present voted to reschedule the September 8, 2021, Board of Regents meeting to September 9, 2021, to accommodate the new date of the USG Foundation Gala.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Materials related to the annual USG audit were presented to the Board for review. Secretary to the Board Edward Tate announced that the next Board of Regents meeting will be held on February 9, 2021.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Shailendra called for an executive session at approximately 11:51 a.m. to discuss personnel matters. With motion properly made and variously seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

### **RECONVENE**

Following executive session, Chairman Shailendra reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 12:23 p.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 12:23 p.m.



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



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

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## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

The Executive & Compensation Committee of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:00 a.m. in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, Atlanta, Georgia. Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Shailendra, were Board Vice Chairman Cade Joiner; Regents Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; James M. Hull; Rachel B. Little; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Harold Reynolds; and Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and several members of his staff also were present. Regent Don L. Waters was excused.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

The Committee conducted its annual self-assessment pursuant to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requirements. Board Chairman Sachin Shailendra and Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness Dr. John Fuchko facilitated a self-assessment discussion covering calendar year 2020. Questions discussed included: 1) whether board members understood their legal, ethical, and fiduciary obligations, 2) whether the bylaws and Board practice distinguish between Board member roles and those of the Chancellor and Presidents, 3) whether the board structure for meetings and reports are working well, 4) how the board remains engaged on Chancellor and Presidential performance, review of institutional mission, and institutional financial health and compliance, and 5) the impact of COVID-19 on Board governance oversight and operations. Regents discussed these items in open session with the Chancellor. A set of recommendations and summary based on this feedback will be prepared and presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

## **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 10:21 a.m. in Room 7007 of the Board's Offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. 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, James M. Hull, Rachel B. Little, Lowery May, Jose R. Perez, and Don L. Waters. Board Vice Chairman Cade Joiner also was present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

1. The Committee reviewed an information item related to the institutional mission consent and approval process.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

2. The Committee approved the establishment of a Nexus in Film Production at Gordon State College.
3. The Committee approved the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Building Information Modeling Management at Georgia Highlands College.
4. The Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Science in Epidemiology at Augusta University.
5. The Committee approved a request from Gordon State College to join the eMajor consortium and to offer a Bachelor of Science with a major in Criminal Justice in collaboration with Dalton State College, Georgia Highlands College, and Georgia Southwestern State University.
6. The Committee approved the termination of several academic programs at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

7. The Committee approved proposed new institutional mission statements for the College of Coastal Georgia and the University of Georgia.
8. The Committee approved the establishment of several endowed faculty positions at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern University, and the University of West Georgia.
9. The Committee approved appointments to two endowed faculty positions at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia State University.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Committee consideration, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:39 a.m.

## **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 10:40 a.m. in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Don L. Waters called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Waters, were Committee Vice Chairman James M. Hull; Regents W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Rachel B. Little; Lowery May; and Jose R. Perez. Board Vice Chairman Cade Joiner also was present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

1. The Committee approved certain named personnel at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia to use United States Government security clearances related to classified government research and exclude members of the Board of Regents and certain other University System employees from obtaining access to such classified materials.
2. The Committee approved the settlement of a property damage claim to the Georgia Institute of Technology's Scheller College of Business property.
3. The Committee approved proposed revisions to the *Board of Regents Policy Manual*, Section 6.3.5, Trademarks. Regents Holmes and Rivera Holmes voted against proposed revisions to Board of Regents Policy 6.3.5. Six other Regents present voted to approve the proposed revisions.
4. The Committee approved proposed revisions to *Board of Regents Policy Manual* Section 8.3.9.4, Temporary Suspension for Violation of State or Federal Laws.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Waters called for an executive session at 10:52 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 11:05 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 11:06 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEES ON  
FINANCE & BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND INTERNAL AUDIT, RISK AND COMPLIANCE**

The Joint Committees on Finance & Business Operations and Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:21 a.m. in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Philip A. Wilheit, Sr., called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chairman Wilheit, were Committee Vice Chairman C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Regents Samuel D. Holmes; Everett Kennedy; Neil L Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; and Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra also was present. Regent T. Dallas Smith was excused.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Vice Chancellor for Internal Audit and Chief Audit Officer Claire Arnold presented the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Engagement Results for the University System of Georgia.
2. Associate Vice Chancellor for Accounting and Reporting Brad Freeman presented the 2020 Consolidated Annual Financial Report for the University System of Georgia.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committees, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:37 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AUDIT, RISK AND COMPLIANCE**

The Committee on Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:39 a.m. in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chairman Wilheit, were Committee Vice Chairman C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Regents Samuel D. Holmes; Everett Kennedy; Neil L Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; and Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra also was present. Regent T. Dallas Smith was excused. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

1. Vice Chancellor for Internal Audit and Chief Audit Officer Claire Arnold presented the results of the Quality Assurance Review that was completed in fall 2020. The review was intended to confirm the audit function's compliance with professional standards and found that the internal audit function "generally complies," which is the highest available rating.

**APPROVAL ITEMS**

2. The Committee approved the proposed Internal Audit Charter.
3. The Committee approved the proposed Compliance and Ethics Charter.
4. The Committee approved the proposed Committee on Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance Charter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:51 a.m.

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

The Committee on Personnel & Benefits of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 10:51 a.m. in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Chairman Pruitt, were Committee Vice Chairwoman Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Regents Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Everett Kennedy; Harold Reynolds; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; and Regent Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra also were present. Regent T. Dallas Smith was excused.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Total Rewards Karin Elliott presented an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the USG Healthcare Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:55 a.m.

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

The Committee on Real Estate & Facilities of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 11:04 a.m. in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chairman Samuel D. Holmes called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chairman Holmes, were Regents C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; Everett Kennedy; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford Reed; Harold Reynolds; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Board Chairman Sachin D. Shailendra also were present. Committee Vice Chairman T. Dallas Smith was excused. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Vice Chancellor for Real Estate and Facilities Sandra Neuse briefed the Committee on two actions taken by Chancellor Wrigley under delated authority. These actions included a disposition of interest in real property located in Bartow County and approval of the design professional firm rankings for six capital projects.
2. Vice Chancellor Neuse provided a written report of real estate actions taken under delegated authority between September 1 and November 30, 2020.
3. The Committee was briefed on a settlement agreement and release associated with the Scheller College of Business at the Georgia Institute of Technology that was included as an approval item on the Committee on Organization and Law's agenda.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

4. The Committee approved the execution of a sub-rental agreement for warehouse space at the Cobb County Research Facility – South Campus for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
5. The Committee approved the acquisition of 3.786 acres of property for Georgia Gwinnett College.
6. The Committee approved the disposition of 653 acres of property in Gordon County for the University of Georgia.
7. The Committee approved the naming of the Willie and Christine Jones Amphitheater at Fort Valley State University.
8. The Committee approved the naming of Cottrell Terrace at the University of North Georgia.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:14 a.m.