

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
January 18, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast. Board Vice Chair Erin Hames called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. Present, in addition to Vice Chair Hames, were Regents Doug Aldridge; Tom Bradbury; Richard T. Evans; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.; James M. Hull; Cade Joiner; Patrick C. Jones; C. Everett Kennedy III; Sarah-Elizabeth Langford; Lowery Houston May; Jose R. Perez; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; T. Dallas Smith; and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present. Board Chair Harold Reynolds and Regent W. Allen Gudenrath were excused.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Anthony Thomas, Student Government Association President at Georgia Gwinnett College, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

Mike Coverson, Chief of Police, gave the safety briefing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Regent Jose R. Perez and variously seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 8 and December 19, 2022, Board meetings.

**CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT – GEORGIA ARCHIVES: PRESERVING THE PAST,  
PROMOTING LIFELONG STUDENT SUCCESS**

The campus spotlight at this month's Board meeting focused on the Georgia Archives and was led by State Archivist and Assistant Vice Chancellor Christopher Davidson. He began the presentation, "Georgia Archives: Preserving the Past, Promoting Lifelong Student Success," by discussing the great work that the Georgia Archives is doing to further the University System's educational mission, such as upgrades to the technology for preserving records. Georgia State University student and Preservation Technician Kayla Moorhead then discussed her valuable experience working at the Georgia Archives.

**RECESS**

The Board recessed for track committee meetings.

**USG CAREER PLANNING RESOURCE PLATFORM**

After the full Board reconvened, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Scot Lingrell and Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Implementation Rich Loftus gave a presentation regarding a new online career planning resource called Steppingblocks that is now available to all of the University System of Georgia's students. It is a data driven online platform that assists students in career and education searches and is designed to find the best path specifically tailored for the individual student. Also, Steppingblocks assists the student in researching future careers with real world statistics related to the student's major, interests, and

dream job preference.

### **RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT – “THE PROMISE OF CONVERSATIONAL AI: NEXT GENERATION ASSISTANTS”**

President Ángel Cabrera of the Georgia Institute of Technology began the Research Spotlight presentation, “The Promise of Conversational AI: Next Generation Assistants,” by introducing Georgia Research Alliance Scholar and Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Larry Heck. Dr. Heck explained Conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI), which consists of Large Language Models (LLM). The vision of this research is to create AI Virtual Assistants to partner with humans. Each AI Virtual Assistant is personalized and specializes in areas of human interest such as research, teaching, legal, medical, and creative.

### **CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

Chancellor Sonny Perdue gave his monthly report in which he shared with the Board the presentation he gave to the General Assembly at the University System’s (USG) budget hearing. He started the discussion by talking about the direction and the priorities of USG and how that relates to the State’s formula that funds the system. Chancellor Perdue continued by saying that he wanted the committee to know that USG is about continuous improvement, so he shared USG’s Principles, “Good, Better, Best – Never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best!” He went on to say that he wanted the committee to know that as they invest in higher education, that USG would be accountable to the committee and to the public and wants to demonstrate a return on their investment.

Chancellor Perdue shared the requested \$124 million budget recommendation for FY24 and the \$99.7 million recommendation for the amended budget for FY23. Chancellor Perdue pointed out that he has been on all sides of this process, regarding recommending and approving budgets, as a State Senator and Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, and as Governor during the Great Recession. He also said that in all that time, and in all his years of public service, one of the issues that has always been so important to him and to the State of Georgia is higher education.

Chancellor Perdue stated that to further support FY24 and FY23 budget recommendations he presented the following facts: since 2016, average annual tuition increase has been 0.72%, less than 1% a year, far below the rate of inflation; in five of the last seven years, the USG has not raised tuition at all – including for the current academic year; of the sixteen states that make up the Southern Regional Education Board, USG ranks third lowest in undergraduate tuition and fees; and two-thirds of the nation pays higher average tuition and fees for four-year degrees than Georgia does. Additionally, USG’s impact for Georgia is as follows: employs 48,000 staff and faculty; statewide economic impact of \$19.3 billion; and since 2011, the number of USG degrees awarded to our graduates has increased about 36%. That includes some 74,500 degrees awarded this past fiscal year alone – the most in history.

Chancellor Perdue stated that USG stresses completing a degree because there is a direct link between education, economic development, and quality of life. He said the facts show USG bachelor’s degree holders will make over one million dollars more in their lifetimes than those who don’t finish college; education is life changing. Chancellor Perdue said he told the appropriations committee, “That’s the business we’re in, and we’re going to keep improving that business with your help.”

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Reports of the standing committees are attached hereto.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to come before the Board.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Secretary to the Board Christopher McGraw announced that the next Board of Regents meeting will be held on February 14, 2023, at the Board’s offices in Atlanta.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Vice Chair Erin Hames called for an executive session at approximately 3:23 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. 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, Vice Chair Erin Hames reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 3:55 p.m. and announced that the Board took no actions during the executive session.

Upon a motion properly made by Regent Jose R. Perez and seconded by Regent Tom Bradbury, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Georj Lewis to be the next President of Clayton State University, effective February 1, 2023.

Upon a motion properly made by Regent Sarah-Elizabeth Langford and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers to be the next President of Atlanta Metropolitan State College, effective February 1, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion properly made by Regent Samuel D. Holmes and seconded by Regent Richard T. Evans the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.



Harold Reynolds  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia



Christopher A. McGraw  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE AND COMPENSATION**

The Committee on Executive and Compensation of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at approximately 12:03 p.m., in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Vice Chair Erin Hames called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Vice Chair Hames, were Regents Samuel D. Holmes; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; T. Dallas Smith; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Jose R. Perez; C. Thomas Hopkins; Doug Aldridge; Tom Bradbury; James K. Syfan, III; and James M. Hull. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

### **Meeting Session**

The Executive and Compensation Committee reviewed, and upon a motion by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr. and seconded by Regent Samuel D. Holmes, the committee approved the Board's Self-Assessment and Recommendations.

Recommendations included that the Board:

1. Continue to use data, technology, and key performance indicators to improve decision-making and public transparency;
2. Continue to meet twice per year as committees of the whole; and
3. Continue to hold planning meetings and other informal sessions to facilitate strategic planning and communication among Board members.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the committee, and upon motion properly made by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by Regent Doug Aldridge, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:07 p.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 1:05 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, in Room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Lowery Houston May, were Committee Vice Chair Samuel D. Holmes; Regents Sarah-Elizabeth Langford; Tom Bradbury; Cade Joiner; Barbara Rivera Holmes; and Jose R. Perez.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. The Committee approved the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering at Georgia Southern University upon a motion by Regent Cade Joiner seconded by Regent Jose R. Perez.
2. The Committee approved the establishment of an Associate of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at Middle Georgia State University upon a motion by Regent Samuel D. Holmes seconded by Regent Cade Joiner.
3. The Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Science in Applied Business Analytics at the University of West Georgia upon a motion by Regent Barbara Rivera Holmes seconded by Regent Cade Joiner.
4. The Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Science in Strategic Cybersecurity and Information Management at the University of West Georgia upon a motion by Regent Cade Joiner seconded by Regent Jose R. Perez.
5. The Committee approved the termination of the Bachelor of Science in Music Education at the University of North Georgia upon a motion by Regent Cade Joiner seconded by Regent Samuel D. Holmes.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

6. The Committee approved the Establishment of the Betsy Bernard Sages Professorship in Financial Therapy and Financial Planning at the University of Georgia.
7. The Committee approved the Establishment of the Chick-fil-A Distinguished Professorship for Leadership Advancement at the University of Georgia.
8. The Committee approved the Establishment of the Crosswell Chair in Large Animal Medicine at the University of Georgia.
9. The Committee approved the Establishment of the Lou and Georgia Sobh Professorship in Teaching Excellence at the University of Georgia.
10. The Committee approved the appointment of several named faculty positions at Augusta University, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:14 p.m.

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

The Joint Committees on Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance and Finance & Business Operations of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 1:29 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair James K. Syfan, III called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Syfan, were Committee Chair Neil L. Pruitt; Committee Vice Chair C. Thomas Hopkins Jr.; Committee Vice Chair Doug Aldridge; Regents James M. Hull; C. Everett Kennedy, III; T. Dallas Smith; Richard T. Evans, Sr.; and Patrick C. Jones. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

**MEETING SESSION**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Accounting and Reporting Amanda Bibby and Vice Chancellor for Internal Audit and Chief Audit Officer Jenna Wiese presented on two information items, to include:

1. The committees heard an information item on the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Engagement Results for the University System of Georgia.
2. The committees heard an information item on the 2022 Consolidated Annual Financial Report for the University System of Georgia.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Following the presentation of informational items, Chairman Syfan called for an executive session at approximately 1:54 p.m. With the motion properly made by Regent Pruitt and seconded by Regent Evans, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to go into executive session. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file in the Office of the Secretary to the Board. The Executive Session was adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m. No actions were taken in the Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committees, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:11 p.m.

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

The Committee on Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance of the University System of Georgia met at approximately 1:18 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St., SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair James K. Syfan, III called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Syfan, were Committee Vice Chair C. Thomas Hopkins Jr.; Regents James M. Hull; C. Everett Kennedy, III; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Doug Aldridge; T. Dallas Smith; Richard T. Evans, Sr.; and Patrick C. Jones. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

### **MEETING SESSION**

Vice Chancellor for Internal Audit and Chief Audit Officer Jenna Wiese started the meeting by providing an informational update on the internal audit reports issued across the University System of Georgia over the last fiscal year.

Jenna Wiese recommended the Board approve the Internal Audit Charter which defines the purpose, authority, and responsibility of the internal audit function of the University System of Georgia. The professional standards governing internal audit include language that the chief audit executive must "periodically review the internal audit charter and present it to senior management and the board for approval."

Jenna Wiese then recommended for board approval the Compliance and Ethics Charter which defines the purpose, authority, and responsibility of the University System of Georgia compliance and ethics function. The federal standards governing compliance programs include guidance that "organization's governing authority shall be knowledgeable about the content and operation of the compliance and ethics program and shall exercise reasonable oversight with respect to the implementation and effectiveness of the compliance and ethics program."

Jenna Wiese also recommended for board approval the Committee on Internal Audit, Risk, and Compliance Charter which outlines the broad scope of the Committee's responsibility for oversight and accountability pertaining to audits, risk management, and compliance and ethics. The charter notes that it "broadly defines the Committee's roles with respect to auditing, risk management, and compliance. However, nothing in this Charter shall be construed to limit the authority of the Board or the Committee."

With a motion properly made by Regent Aldridge and seconded by Regent Evans, the Committee members present voted unanimously to approve the recommended charters.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:29 p.m.



**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION & LAW**

The Committee on Organization and Law of the University System of Georgia met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at approximately 1:14 p.m., in room 7007 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington St. SW, in Atlanta, Georgia. Committee Chair Sarah-Elizabeth Langford called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Langford, were Committee Vice Chair Tom Bradbury; Regents Lowery Houston May; Cade Joiner; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; and Jose R. Perez. Regents W. Allen Gudenrath was excused.

**Approval Items:**

1. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved a mutual aid agreement between the Columbus Police Department and Columbus State University.
2. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved a mutual aid agreement between the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office and Columbus State University.
3. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved a mutual aid agreement between the Muscogee County School District Police Department and Columbus State University.
4. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Samuel D. Holmes, the committee approved a mutual aid agreement between the City of Barnesville and Gordon State College.
5. Upon a motion by Regent Tom Bradbury and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the committee approved a resolution in support of the Georgia Institute of Technology's security request for permission to have certain named personnel to apply for and receive United States Government security clearance related to classified government research and for other specifically named personnel to be excluded from clearance requirements.
6. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved a resolution in support of the University of Georgia's security request for permission to have certain named personnel to apply for and receive United States Government security clearance related to classified government research and for other specifically named personnel to be excluded from clearance requirements.
7. Upon a motion by Regent Jose Perez and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the committee approved the awarding of an honorary degree by the Georgia Institute of Technology to Satya Nadella.
8. Upon a motion by Regent Jose Perez and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved the awarding of an honorary degree by the Georgia Institute of Technology to Michael G. "Mike" Messner.

9. Upon a motion by Regent Cade Joiner and seconded by Regent Tom Bradbury, the committee approved the awarding of an honorary degree by the University of West Georgia to Zachry “Zac” Alexander Brown.
10. Upon a motion by Regent Jose Perez and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved the awarding of honorary degrees by Georgia Southern University to (1) Fred Gretsch and Dinah Gretsch; and upon a motion by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the committee approved the awarding of an honorary degree by Georgia Southern University to (2) Cole Swindell.

### **Executive Session and Discussion Items**

Committee Chair Sarah-Elizabeth Langford called for an executive session at approximately 1:23 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and student records. With the motion properly made by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes, 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.

Upon motion properly made by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner the Executive Session was adjourned at approximately 1:33 p.m. No actions were taken in the Executive Session.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the committee, and upon motion properly made by Regent Lowery Houston May and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:35 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES**

The Committee on Real Estate and Facilities of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at approximately 1:01 p.m. in the Board's offices, 270 Washington Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast. Committee Chair T. Dallas Smith called the meeting to order. Present, in addition to Committee Chair Smith were Committee Vice Chair C. Everett Kennedy, III, Regents James M. Hull, C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., Doug Aldridge, Richard "Tim" Evans, Sr. and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. The Committee received information about an action taken by the Chancellor to authorize a budget modification for project number J-348, Expansion of Tech Square, Phase III, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
2. The Committee received a written report of real estate actions taken between August 1, 2022, and November 30, 2022, pursuant to the delegated authority of the Vice Chancellor for Real Estate and Facilities.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. The Committee authorized a budget modification for project number BR-67-2202, Griffin Bell Conference Center Renovation and Addition, for Georgia Southwestern State University and delegated authority to the Chancellor to approve subsequent budget modifications during project design. The Committee also authorized the demolition of the existing Griffin Bell Conference Center.
2. The Committee authorized project number BR-90-2303, Data Center Upgrades, on the Kennesaw Campus for Kennesaw State University.
3. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2303, Boggs Lab Renovation, and project number BR-30-2304, ES&T Lab Renovation, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
4. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2305, Cloudman Make-up Air Unit Installation, project number BR-30-2306, 8<sup>th</sup> Street Apartments Underground Utilities, and BR-30-2307, Ferst Drive Connectivity Plan, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
5. The Committee authorized the execution of a subrental agreement for research expansion space in the CODA Building's High Performance Computing Center for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
6. The Committee approved the naming of the Coliseum Annex Building on the Georgia Institute of Technology campus as the "Michael K. Anderson Building".

## **APPROVAL ITEMS**

7. The Committee authorized project number BR-10-2304, Riverbend Research Building 1 Addition, for the University of Georgia. The motion to approve was made by Regent Evans and seconded by Regent Kennedy.
8. The Committee approved an advance rental payment for three leased multi-story parking structures on the Kennesaw campus for Kennesaw State University. The Committee further acknowledged that the advance rental payment would allow the early termination of the corresponding ground leases and rental agreements, resulting in the reversions of the improved real properties to the Board of Regents. The motion to approve was made by Regent Pruitt and seconded by Regent Hopkins.
9. The Committee approved an advance rental payment for 12.97 acres of leased improved property known as Chastain Pointe located at 1200 Chastain Road in Kennesaw for Kennesaw State University. The Committee further acknowledged that the advance rental payment would allow the early termination of the corresponding rental agreement and approved the acquisition of the property as a gift. The motion to approve was made by Regent Evans and seconded by Regent Pruitt.
10. The Committee approved an advance rental payment for 1.75 acres of leased property improved with three houses located at 3209, 3211, and 3215 Campus Loop Road in Kennesaw for Kennesaw State University. The Committee further acknowledged that the advance rental payment would allow the early termination of the corresponding rental agreements and approved the acquisition of the properties as gifts. The motion to approve was made by Regent Pruitt and seconded by Regent Hopkins.
11. The Board authorized the disposition of approximately 26 acres of improved real property and transfer to the Early County Board of Education for continued educational use for the local community. The Board also authorized the assignment of an existing daycare lease agreement to the Early County Board of Education. The motion to approve was made by Regent Hull and seconded by Regent Kennedy.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:16 p.m.