

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
Atlanta, Georgia  
February 13, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in the Campus Recreation Center, Fourth Floor – at the Georgia Institute of Technology, 750 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously accessible by BOR Webcast. Board Chair Harold Reynolds called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Present in addition to Board Chair Reynolds, were Vice Chair T. Dallas Smith; Regents Doug Aldridge; Tom Bradbury; W. Allen Gudenrath; Erin Hames; Bárbara Rivera Holmes; Samuel D. Holmes; 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.; Mathews D. Swift; and James K. Syfan, III. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present. Regent Richard T. Evans was excused.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Harrison Baro, Student Government Association Executive Vice President at the Georgia Institute of Technology, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SAFETY BRIEFING**

Gabrielle Masinko, the Georgia Institute of Technology Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, gave the safety briefing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a proper motion and variously seconded, the Regents present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024, Board meeting.

**CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT: GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA – “CYBER EDUCATION & TRAINING THE NATION’S NATIONAL SECURITY WORKFORCE”**

President Ángel Cabrera of the Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) and President Michael P. Shannon of the University of North Georgia (UNG) led the Campus Spotlight, “Cyber Education and Training the Nation’s National Security Workforce.” Presidents Cabrera and Shannon both gave opening remarks regarding the mutual institutions’ accomplishments in winning first and second place for the National Security Agency’s (NSA) Codebreaker Challenge. President Shannon shared that UNG and GIT’s faculty, and students are contributing to the security of America through their cyber programs. He also expressed the need there is for talented cybersecurity professionals. President Shannon shared that there are more than 1.2 million positions in the cybersecurity workforce in the United States and more than 570,000 openings in that profession. President Cabrera shared that the need for cybersecurity professionals is also present in the state of Georgia where 19,000 open positions currently exist. He continued by stating nationally and in the state of Georgia GIT and UNG are answering the call both in developing technologies and graduating the best and brightest cybersecurity professionals. President Shannon added that developing cybersecurity workforce is critically important to GIT and UNG.

After Presidents Cabrera and Shannon’s presentation, the following faculty members and students from GIT and UNG addressed the Board: Dr. Bryson Payne, UNG, Professor and Coordinator of Cyber Programs, 2021 Alumni Distinguished Professor; Cadet Matthew Perrino, UNG, Senior, Cybersecurity Major, Member of the Corps Cyber Unit and CyberHawks Competition Teams; Ms. Ada Arcinas, UNG, Sophomore, Cybersecurity Major, and CyberHawks Member; Dr. Taesoo Kim, GIT, Professor of Computer Science and Cybersecurity; Mr. Darin Mao, GIT, Second Year, Computer Science Major; and Mr. Joshua Wang, GIT, First Year, Computer Science Major. The first faculty member that addressed the Board was Dr. Bryson Payne, UNG. Dr. Payne shared that he has taught computer science and cybersecurity at UNG for twenty-six years and has coached cyber teams in the NSA’s Codebreaker Challenge for the past ten years. Dr. Payne explained that the challenge is a one-hundred-day competition across more than four hundred universities in the United States that requires applied knowledge, technical skills, programming, cryptography, forensics, networking, software reverse engineering, and binary exploit analysis that trains the nation’s best cybersecurity professionals to take down criminal, terrorist, and nation-state adversaries.

Next, Dr. Payne introduced Cadet Matthew Perrino, UNG. Cadet Perrino shared with the Board that he is an Operations Officer and that one of his favorite roles is overseeing peer training. Then Ms. Ada Arcinas, UNG, discussed her participation in various cybersecurity activities. In addition to being a member of CyberHawk, she is also a member of the Specialty Cyber Unit and Women in Technology. The next speaker to address the Board was Dr. Taesoo Kim, GIT. Dr. Kim stated that he does research in secure systems and since joining UNG in 2015 he has been offering a new class called Information Security Lab, which teaches a practical hacking skill. Then, Dr. Kim introduced Mr. Darin Mao, GIT, and shared that Mr. Mao is one of two of his best hackers. Mr. Mao shared that he has participated in security competitions since high school and stated that in terms of preparation, having hands-on-skills is especially important. Dr. Kim introduced the final speaker, Mr. Joshua Wang, GIT, the second student that he referred to as one of his best hackers. Mr. Wang shared that he is a first-year science student from Maryland and he too has participated in security competitions since high school. He continued by saying his first semester was great and he thinks that a position in security research would be an awesome career prospect. The experiences and explanations presented in GIT and UNG’s campus spotlight – “Cyber Education and Training the Nation’s National Security Workforce” reinforced the importance of cyber education and training in USG’s institutions and its contributions to the security of the nation.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (NISS)**

Dr. Timothy M. Renick, Founding Executive Director, Georgia State University (GSU), gave a presentation on the National Institute for Student Success (NISS). Dr. Renick started his presentation by saying that GSU has been part of a vanguard of institutions that have redesigned student support systems, that is, the process of student registration, how faculty and staff advise students, assistance with financial aid, and the day-to-day communication with students. He stated that the changes are systematic – changes that touch every student, not only every semester, but in many cases every day. He also added that GSU is leveraging technologies and data to improve the systems much like what happens in private sectors. Dr. Renick shared how using the indicated techniques has improved GSU’s graduation rate by approximately seventy percent. He continued by saying GSU is graduating 3,500 more students every year than a decade ago and is illuminating gaps in graduation rates based on race, ethnicity, and income levels. Dr. Renick continued his

presentation by saying NISS is dedicated to helping other institutions adopt the changes that he discussed and connect practitioner to practitioner so that these kind of changes can be scaled nationally.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Academic Affairs met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:27 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Erin Hames, upon motions properly made and seconded, the Board members present approved the following items, and an information item was presented.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Upon a motion by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and seconded by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes, the Committee approved the establishment of an independent School of Medicine (SOM) at the University of Georgia.
2. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with Literacy Focus at Middle Georgia State University.
3. Upon a motion by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes, and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Committee approved the establishment of a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence at Kennesaw State University.
4. Upon a motion by Regent Doug Aldridge, and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the Committee approved the termination of the Associate of Applied Science Paralegal Studies degree at Albany State University.
5. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the Committee approved the termination of the Bachelor of Arts Law and Society degree at Georgia Southern University.
6. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Regent C. Everett Kennedy, III, the Committee reaffirmed the Mission Statement at Georgia Southern University.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

7. The Committee approved the establishment of the Michael E. Tennenbaum Early Career Professorship at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
8. The Committee approved the establishment of the Herbert H. and Jean A. Ross Memorial Distinguished Professorship in Insect Systematics and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Georgia.
9. The Committee approved the appointment of several named faculty positions at Columbus State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and University of Georgia.

### INFORMATION ITEM

Dr. Dana Nichols, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Success, provided an update on USG data science courses cooperative agreement.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, and upon motion properly made by Regent Lowery Houston May and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:36 a.m.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: ORGANIZATION AND LAW

The Committee on Organization and Law met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:37 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Samuel D. Holmes, upon motions properly made and seconded, the Board members present unanimously approved the following items:

#### APPROVAL ITEMS:

(1) Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved the awarding of an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree by Dalton State College to Mr. Robert E. “Bob” Shaw; and (2) upon a motion by Regent W. Allen Gudenrath, and seconded by Regent Cade Joiner, the committee approved the awarding of an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree by Dalton State College to Mrs. Dorthy “Dottie” S. Boring Shaw.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The Organization and Law Committee met in executive session during the full Board’s executive session to discuss personnel matters and student records. Minutes regarding this executive session are in the full Board minutes, and an affidavit regarding the executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, and upon motion properly made by Regent Lowery Houston May and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:39 a.m.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: FINANCE AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The Committee on Finance and Business Operations met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:39 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Doug Aldridge an Information Item was presented to the Board.

### INFORMATION ITEM

The Committee heard an information item on the Fiscal Year 2024 second quarter revenues and expenditures for the University System of Georgia.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:47 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES**

The Committee on Real Estate and Facilities met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:48 a.m. Committee Vice Chair James M. Hull called the meeting to order. Unless otherwise noted, the Regents present approved all items unanimously.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

1. The Committee authorized project number BR-30-2408, Marcus Nanotechnology Cleanroom Expansion, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
2. The Committee authorized an amendment to sub-rental agreement for office space at 2970 Presidential Drive in Fairborn, Ohio, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.
3. The Committee authorized amendments to extend the ground lease and the rental agreement for the University Pointe student housing complex in Macon for Middle Georgia State University. Regent Sarah-Elizabeth Langford recused herself from the vote on this item.

### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

4. Upon a motion by Regent C. Everett Kennedy, III, and seconded by Regent Bárbara Rivera Holmes, the Committee approved the namings of Carol Brown Softball Field and Robert Bentley Baseball Field for Georgia Highlands College.
5. Upon a motion by Regent C. Everett Kennedy, III, and seconded by Regent Patrick C. Jones, the Committee approved the naming of Kenneth S. Saladin Integrated Science Complex for Georgia College and State University.
6. Upon a motion by Regent Mathews D. Swift and seconded by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., the Committee approved the ranking of the design professional firms and construction management firms for project number BR-90-2401, Stillwell Baseball Stadium Renovation, for Kennesaw State University. The design professional firms, in rank order, were:
  - 1) The S/L/A/M Collaborative (Atlanta, GA)
  - 2) Menefee Architecture, LLC (Atlanta, GA)
  - 3) MSSA-PBK (Sugar Hill, GA)
  - 4) CHA Consulting, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)The construction management firms, in rank order, were:
  - 1) JE Dunn Construction Company (Atlanta, GA)
  - 2) Reeves Young, LLC (Sugar Hill, GA)
  - 3) Carroll Daniel Construction Company (Gainesville, GA)
7. Upon a motion by Regent Doug Aldridge and seconded by Regent James K. Syfan, III, the Committee authorized design services with a total value not to exceed \$1,000,000 for

proposed project number BR-30-2406, Westside Community Connector Bridge, for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

8. Upon a motion by Regent Neil L. Pruitt, Jr., and seconded by Regent Mathews D. Swift, the Committee authorized project number BR-30-2407, Smith and Howell Residence Hall Renovation, for Georgia Institute of Technology.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:56 a.m.

#### **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Sonny Perdue gave his monthly report. He began by greeting everyone and wishing everyone an early Happy Valentine's Day. Then Chancellor Perdue thanked President Cabrera and his team for hosting the Board meeting and doing an outstanding job. He continued his report by saying that the success of USG's students is always a priority and more so when the System can celebrate what they have accomplished. Then, Chancellor Perdue announced that the University of Georgia (UGA) was awarded the 2024 Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship. He also shared that the tournament is by invitation only and is reserved for the top sixteen moot court programs from law schools across the country and this is the second year in a row that UGA has won the competition.

Chancellor Perdue continued his report by discussing SAT and ACT testing requirements, a topic that will be discussed further by the Board in the Spring. He shared that twenty-three of USG's institutions have continued a test optional waiver for the 2024-25 academic year; the institutions that do not have an optional waiver are the University of Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Georgia College and State University and this is because they use a holistic admission process. Chancellor Perdue continued by saying, many institutions became test optional during the pandemic and, at last count, an estimated 1,900 schools have made standardized testing scores optional, and more than eighty schools do not require test scores. He followed up by saying that, at the time, it was suggested that a student's GPA was a better determinate for success than standardized scores.

Chancellor Perdue also reported that the amended Fiscal Year 2024 budget has passed the House, and now sits with the Senate, which includes the \$66 million restored to our institutional teaching budgets. He continued by saying that the budget also includes the \$1000 one-time bonuses that full-time staff members received in December 2023 and \$88 million to support the sourcing of a new Enterprise Resource Management (ERP) system. Chancellor Perdue also stated that USG has multiple capital projects funded as cash in the recommendations, including \$178 million for the Augusta University affiliated dental school at Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus in Savannah as well as the \$50 million for a new standalone medical school at UGA.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Regent Cade Joiner announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Board of Regents Gala will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, and encouraged everyone to “save the date” to attend. Regent Joiner also announced that 1.2 million dollars has been set as the goal to reach for scholarships and awards for this year’s gala.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Secretary to the Board Christopher McGraw announced that there were no timely petitions or communications for the Board to consider and that the Annual Planning Retreat will be held on March 12 and 13, 2024.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Chair Harold Reynolds called for an executive session at approximately 10:31 a.m. to discuss real estate matters, student records, and personnel matters. With a 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, Board Chair Harold Reynolds reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 10:53 a.m. and announced that the Board took no actions during the executive session.

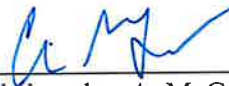
### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion properly made by Regent C. Everett Kennedy and seconded by Regent Doug Aldridge, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.



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Harold Reynolds  
Chairman, Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia



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