

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
Atlanta, Georgia
January 11, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, in the Board Room, Room 8003, 270 Washington Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia. The Chair of the Board, Regent C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr., called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m. Present, in addition to Chair Hopkins, were Vice Chair James M. Hull; and Regents C. Dean Alford; Larry R. Ellis; Rutledge A. Griffin, Jr.; Donald M. Leebern, Jr.; Laura Marsh; Doreen Stiles Poitevint; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; E. Scott Smith; Sachin Shailendra; Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.; Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III; Richard L. Tucker; T. Rogers Wade; Larry Walker; Don L. Waters; and Philip A. Wilheit, Sr. Regent W. Paul Bowers was excused.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Georgia Institute of Technology Graduate Assistant Azell Francis gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SAFETY BRIEFING

Chief of Police Bruce Holmes gave the safety briefing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With motion made and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board's Dec. 9, 2016, meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chair Hopkins made his remarks to the Board at approximately 9:14 a.m. He stressed his tenure will continue the Board's efforts to make certain Georgia students have the access to education and better ability to complete their degrees. Chair Hopkins noted the billions of dollars, and hundreds of thousands of jobs, that the University System of Georgia contributes to the state's economy annually, tying the notion of public education to prosperity. The Chair lauded certain successes, such as the growth in graduate medical education – noting there is yet room yet to grow – and touched on the USG's focus on targeted consolidations to provide better service to students. An audio recording of Chair Hopkins' remarks is on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Chancellor Steve Wrigley took opportunity around 9:19 a.m. to recognize several distinguished guests: Dr. Arthur Dunning, president of the newly-consolidated Albany State University; Dr. Richard Carvajal, appointed in December 2016 as Valdosta State University president, having formerly served as Bainbridge State College president and Darton State College interim president; and Dr. Houston Davis, who departs to helm Central Arkansas University as president, after serving as University System of Georgia Chief Academic Officer and lately as Kennesaw State University interim president.

CONSOLIDATION UPDATE

At approximately 9:32 a.m., Chancellor Steve Wrigley and Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness John Fuchko proposed to the Board two institutional consolidations. With motion made and variously seconded, the Board members who were present approved the consolidation of Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University, forming Georgia Southern University; and the consolidation of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and Bainbridge State College, forming Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The Board further authorized the Chancellor to take such measures as he deems necessary and prudent to give effect to the Board's determination that these institutions be consolidated, pending final determinations by the Board on all points. A copy of Chancellor Wrigley's and Vice Chancellor Fuchko's presentation, and an audio copy of their remarks, is

on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TEACHING ASSISTANT

At approximately 9:48 a.m., Georgia Institute of Technology President G.P. “Bud” Peterson and Professor of Computer Science and Cognitive Science Ashok Goel presented the Board with a recap of one of the institution’s artificial intelligence projects. A team of Georgia Tech graduate students created an artificial intelligence teaching assistant, named Jill Watson, to support online classes, they said. The AI provides fast, reliable answers and feedback to students, many of whom were unaware it was artificial until later informed. A copy of President Peterson’s and Professor Goel’s presentation, and an audio recording of their remarks, is on file with and available for inspection in the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

ETHICS TRAINING

At approximately 10:07 a.m., Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness John Fuchko provided the Board an overview of the Bylaws provisions and USG Ethics Policy requirements that pertain to members of the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, and Executive Vice Chancellors. This annual orientation included signing the USG Ethics Policy certification and constituted the ethics training required by Board Policy 8.2.20. An audio recording of Vice Chancellor Fuchko’s remarks is on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

Chancellor Steve Wrigley gave his report to the Board around 1:55 p.m. The Chancellor stressed his administration will continue to focus on student accessibility and online access, as well as furthering the mission of Complete College Georgia. Dr. Wrigley stated affordability starts with tuition, and noted the Board had kept tuition increases at an average of 2.5 percent over the past five years. He mentioned building on efforts to improve efficiency, increase accountability and control costs, citing as prime example the morning’s actions on consolidation. He thanked the Georgia Legislature for its continued support of the University System of Georgia. The Chancellor also took time to recognize the life and service of the recently-deceased Dr. Harry Downs, Clayton State University founding president, and who also had served the USG as an assistant vice chancellor and acting Chancellor. Finally, Chancellor Wrigley shared with the Board various highlights from, and accomplishments at, System institutions. An audio recording of Chancellor Wrigley’s remarks is on file with, and available for inspection in, the Office of the Secretary to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports of the standing committees are attached hereto.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

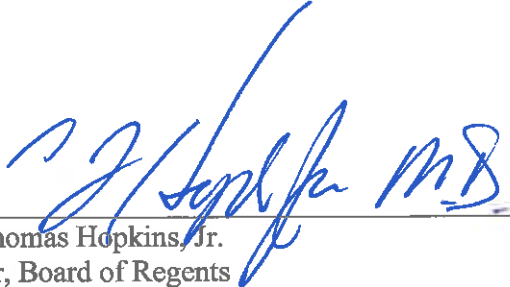
There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 2:10 p.m., Chair Hopkins called for an executive session to discuss personnel and compensation matters. With motion properly made and unanimously seconded, the Regents voted unanimously to go into executive session. University System of Georgia staff members who were also present for portions of the executive session included Chancellor Wrigley and members of his staff. An affidavit regarding this executive session is on file with the Office of the Secretary to the Board. Chair Hopkins reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 2:30 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 approximately 2:32 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017.



C. Thomas Hopkins, Jr.
Chair, Board of Regents
University System of Georgia



Samuel C. Burch
Secretary, Board of Regents
University System of Georgia