



Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 8, 2023
317 College Street, Clarksville, TN 37040

Call to Order

Trustee Jenkins, board chair, called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

Roll Call/Declaration of a Quorum

Dr. Carol Clark, secretary to the board, called the roll. Trustee Jenkins stated there was a quorum.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL		
Name	Present	Absent
Trustee Atkins	X	
Trustee Cannata	X	
Trustee Jenkins (Chair)	X	
Trustee Knight*	X	
Trustee May	X	
Trustee Mealer		X
Trustee O'Malley	X	
Trustee McInnis	X	
Trustee Roe	X	
Trustee Semler	X	

*Non-Voting Member

University Personnel Present

Dr. Michael Licari, President

Dr. Maria Cronley, Provost

Dr. Carol Clark, Secretary to the Board

Dannelle Whiteside, Vice President for Legal Affairs & Organizational Strategy

Adoption of Agenda

Trustee Jenkins moved for the adoption of the agenda. Trustee Atkins seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and carried unanimously with eight trustees voting yes.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Jenkins stated that the minutes for the September 15, 2023, board meeting were circulated in advance and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none. Trustee Jenkins moved to approve the minutes as written. Trustee Roe seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and carried unanimously with eight trustees voting yes.

Public Comment

Trustee Jenkins stated that in accordance with Tennessee law, if there had been requests from the public to address the board, it would occur at this point in the meeting. However, the board did not receive any requests.

Campus Spotlight

Trustee Jenkins recognized President Licari to introduce Dr. Buzz Hoon and Dr. Tony Morris, to provide the campus spotlight.

Hoon and Morris shared that the College of Arts and Letters has made significant strides in the past 14 months. Driven by the vision of being the community-connected face of the university, the college emphasizes storytelling as a unique strength, with each department narrating its story in unique ways.

The Department of Art + Design boasts approximately 300 majors engaged in hands-on learning, with students having received accolades in several national-level venues. The Department of Communication focuses on practical skills through live broadcasts and event planning and has formed partnerships with APSU Athletics and local school districts. The Department of History & Philosophy emphasizes public history, highlighting diverse career paths beyond teaching.

In the Department of Languages & Literature, collaboration between students and faculty has produced literary journals and has facilitated study abroad opportunities. The Department of Music hosts over 100 free public performances each semester, has a Fulbright Scholar, and contributes to the community through the Music Therapy Program. The Department of Theatre & Dance featured multiple productions and provides students with diverse professional opportunities.

The college has pioneered initiatives like "Gobs on the Go" podcasts, Student Leadership Awards, "CoAL Cares" events focusing on mental and physical health, and the "Book a Professor" program connecting faculty with local schools.

Designated as the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts (CECA), APSU enjoys additional state funding, supporting various disciplines and fostering community outreach. The Acuff Chair of Excellence brings notable guests to campus, and the Community School of the Arts (CSA) offers diverse art classes.

With increased enrollment and retention, the College of Arts and Letters has excelled in the past year. Humanities and arts majors in Tennessee are proving to be wise investments, with graduates finding meaningful and well-compensated employment. The college aspires to be the best in the state, attributing its success to the hard work of students, faculty, and staff.

Action Items

A. Academic Affairs Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee May reported on the actions of the Academic Affairs Committee at the December 8, 2023, meeting.

The committee approved the minutes of the September 15, 2023, meeting.

The committee reviewed and approved one item requiring consideration of the board:

- Termination of the Academic Advisor Certificate

Provost Conley presented three information items:

- Fall Census Enrollment
- SACSCOC Decennial Reaffirmation Update
- Letter of Notification to THEC: MS Environmental Science

i. Termination of the Academic Advisor Certificate

By direction of the Academic Affairs Committee, Trustee May moved that the Termination of the Academic Advisor Certificate be approved. Hearing no discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously with eight trustees voting yes.

B. Student Affairs Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee McInnis reported on the actions of the Student Affairs Committee at the December 8, 2023, meeting.

The committee approved the minutes of the September 15, 2023, meeting. There were no action items on the agenda.

C. Business and Finance Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Cannata reported on the actions of the Business and Finance Committee at the December 8, 2023, meeting.

The committee approved the minutes of the September 15, 2023, meeting.

The committee reviewed and approved one item requiring consideration of the board:

- Consideration of the October Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Mr. Roohparvar presented one information item:

- Oracle Implementation

i. Consideration of the October Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

By direction of the Business and Finance Committee, Trustee Cannata moved that the October Revised Budget for 2023-2024 be approved. Hearing no discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously with eight trustees voting yes.

ROLL CALL VOTE OCT REVISED BUDGET FY 23-24		
Name	AYE	NAY
Trustee Atkins	X	
Trustee Cannata	X	
Trustee Jenkins (Chair)	X	
Trustee Knight*	NVM	
Trustee May	X	
Trustee Mealer	ABSENT	
Trustee O'Malley	X	
Trustee McInnis	X	
Trustee Roe	X	
Trustee Semler	X	

D. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Jenkins reported on the actions of the Executive Committee at the December 8, 2023, meeting.

The committee approved the minutes of the September 15, 2023, meeting. There were no action items on the agenda.

E. Audit Committee Report and Recommendations

Trustee Roe reported on the actions of the Audit Committee at the December 8, 2023, meeting.

The committee approved the minutes of the September 15, 2023, meeting.

Mr. Clements presented the following informational items:

- Information Technology Security Update
- Internal audit reports issued between August 18, 2023 and November 9, 2023, with a list of outstanding audit recommendations
- Results the Quality Assurance Review of the Office of Internal Audit

Information Items

A. President's Report & President's Interim Items

Trustee Jenkins recognized President Michael Licari to give the president's report to the board.

Licari stated that the fall semester unfolded with several achievements, notably the football team's back-to-back championships, marking a milestone in Austin Peay history: an incredible 9-3 record, the highest win percentage since 1949. Attendance records were set at football games, both home and away, with the match against UT in Knoxville being the third most-watched college football game in ESPN+ history.

Licari also reported on progress in various other areas. Under Dr. Clemon's leadership, student engagement reached notable levels, as evidenced by successful fraternity and sorority recruitment, high participation in events, and attendance at away athletic events.

Licari noted that community ties were continuing to be strengthened through initiatives such as the Leadership Exchange, corporate connections like Dean Meisch's trip to Korea, and community service events.

Similarly, enrollment trends remained promising, with an opportunity to build on the fall's large freshman class. Admitted students for Fall 2024 are about 20% ahead of last year and freshmen retention into the spring is 3 percentage points better than the previous year.

Licari reported on Advancement's next campaign, and highlight the partnership with the Provost by conducting a workshop to better equip the college deans to fundraise. The collaborative efforts of Athletics as a partner were again emphasized, specifically the importance of enhancing student experiences.

Licari also discussed his partnership with other Tennessee university presidents to boost the state-wide college-going rate.

Licari concluded by noting that the trustees' meeting materials included reports on state building commission actions and the contracts and agreements that had occurred since the last board meeting.

Adjournment

Trustee Jenkins stated the next board meeting will take place on March 22, 2024, and moved to adjourn the board meeting. Trustee McInnis seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and carried unanimously with eight trustees voting yes. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.