



Board of Trustees Meeting

Arkansas State University System
Friday, September 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
Arkansas State University Mid-South

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Past Meetings: June 5, 2024, and June 6, 2024

III. President's Report

IV. Agenda

A. Proposed ASU System Resolutions

- 1. Resolution #24-39 approving the ASU System to adopt and implement a Title IX policy that is compliant with applicable law**
- 2. Resolution #24-40 approving the ASU System to add A-State's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine to the list of programs of study that are exempt from tuition discounts**
- 3. Resolution #24-41 accepting the resignation of Cadence Bank as trustee for bonds and appointing Bank OZK as successor trustee**
- 4. Resolution #24-42 approving the ASU System to proceed with the A-State Baseball Turf Capital Project**

B. Proposed Arkansas State University (A-State) Resolutions

- 1. Resolution #24-43 approving A-State to apply for a grant from the Arkansas Department of Human Services to continue participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program**
- 2. Resolution #24-44 approving A-State to name the baseball field, the "Slayton Family Field"**

C. Proposed Henderson State Resolutions

- 1. Resolution #24-45 approving Henderson State to offer reduced credit-hour degrees**
- 2. Resolution #24-46 approving Henderson State to rename the Henderson Aviation Flight Operations Center to become the "Arkansas Aviation Academy"**

V. Executive Session

VI. Approval of Personnel Actions

- A. ASU System Personnel**
- B. A-State Personnel**
- C. ASU-Beebe Personnel**
- D. ASU-Mountain Home Personnel**
- E. ASU-Newport Personnel**

F. ASU Mid-South Personnel

G. ASU Three Rivers Personnel

H. Henderson State Personnel

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System requests approval to adopt and implement a Title IX policy that is compliant with applicable law.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve modifications to ASU System policies.

BACKGROUND:

- Title IX is a comprehensive federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex by institutions of higher education that receive federal funds.
- The Arkansas State University System has maintained a policy prohibiting sexual discrimination in any program or activity and has also maintained a grievance procedure that complies with the requirements of Title IX.
- On August 12, 2020, the Board of Trustees approved a revised Title IX policy that is currently in effect today.
- On April 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education released revised regulations governing campus compliance with Title IX.
- Institutions of higher education were ordered to implement these new regulations on or before August 1, 2024.
- The revised Title IX regulations are being challenged in multiple courts across the United States. Some courts have issued injunctions prohibiting the new regulations from taking place in certain jurisdictions and for certain campuses. Currently, the Department of Education has been enjoined from enforcing the new Title IX regulations in the State of Arkansas.
- The ASU System must operate in compliance with applicable law.
- The ASU System Office will continue to monitor legal developments in the current Title IX litigation and ensure that the System's Title IX policies and procedures are legally compliant.
- Additionally, regardless of the outcome of the aforementioned Title IX litigation, the ASU System campuses will continue to utilize hearing panels to adjudicate Title IX claims. In order to ensure that

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Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

each campus has a sufficient number of trained panelists to promptly conduct Title IX hearings, each ASU System campus is authorized to use hearing panelists from other ASU System campuses to adjudicate claims.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System Office is ordered to ensure that the ASU System campuses have in place a Title IX policy that is compliant with applicable law. Additionally, the ASU System campuses are authorized to have employees from each ASU System campus serve on hearing panels for any campus within the ASU System.

Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Secretary

Christy Clark, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (System) requests approval for Arkansas State University (A-State) to add the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) to the list of programs of study that are exempt from tuition discounts.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve all tuition and fees.

BACKGROUND:

- The Board of Trustees has granted tuition discounts to System employees and their eligible spouses and dependents for specified undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Each campus within the System may submit requests to the Board to approve programs of study that are not subject to tuition discounts.
- A-State's list of programs that are exempt from tuition discounts will be as follows:
 - O.T.D., Occupational Therapy
 - A.A.S., Occupational Therapy Assistant
 - D.P.T., Physical Therapy
 - A.A.S., Physical Therapist Assistant
 - D.N.P., Nurse Anesthesia
 - D.V.M., Veterinary Medicine

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System is approved to add A-State's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine to the list of programs of study that are exempt from tuition discounts, effective immediately.

Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Secretary

Christy Clark, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (the "ASU System") requests approval to accept the resignation of Cadence Bank (formerly BancorpSouth Bank) as trustee for certain housing bonds and to appoint a successor trustee.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees of the ASU System (the "Board") must approve the appointment of a successor trustee.

BACKGROUND:

- Pursuant to a Trust Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2010, as supplemented by a First Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of March 1, 2012; a Second Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of December 1, 2012; a Third Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of March 1, 2013; a Fourth Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of November 17, 2016; a Fifth Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of December 20, 2017; a Sixth Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of December 18, 2019; and a Seventh Supplemental Trust Indenture, dated as of March 15, 2021 (collectively, the "Indenture"); between the Board and Cadence Bank (formerly BancorpSouth Bank), the following bonds have been issued for the benefit of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro and are currently outstanding: (a) Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University Housing System Revenue Refunding Bonds (Jonesboro Campus), Series 2013; (b) Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University Housing System Revenue Refunding Bonds (Jonesboro Campus), Series 2016; (c) Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University Housing System Revenue Refunding Bonds (Jonesboro Campus), Series 2017; (d) Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University Housing System Revenue Refunding Bonds (Jonesboro Campus), Taxable Series 2019; and (e) Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System Housing System Revenue Refunding Bonds (Jonesboro Campus), Taxable Series 2021 (collectively, the "Bonds").
- Cadence Bank (formerly BancorpSouth Bank) currently serves as trustee for the registered owners of the Bonds.
- Bank OZK has entered into an agreement to purchase the corporate and municipal bond trustee business of Cadence Bank, and Cadence Bank is resigning as trustee under the Indenture.
- The Board desires to appoint Bank OZK as successor trustee for the Bonds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

- Pursuant to an Agreement of Resignation, Appointment and Acceptance among the Board, Cadence Bank and Bank OZK (the "Agreement"), which has been presented to and is before this meeting, Bank OZK will become successor trustee and will be vested with all rights, powers, duties, and obligations, as if originally named the initial trustee in the Indenture.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Board accepts the resignation of Cadence Bank as trustee for the Bonds and appoints Bank OZK as successor trustee. The Chair and Secretary of the Board, the President, the Executive Vice President and CFO, and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro are hereby authorized (a) to take such action required by the Indenture and (b) to execute and deliver such agreements and other instruments, including, without limitation, the Agreement, which is approved in substantially the form presented to this meeting, with such changes as the Chair shall approve, as may be necessary to effectuate the removal of Cadence Bank as trustee and the appointment of Bank OZK as successor trustee.

Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Secretary

Christy Clark, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (System) requests approval to proceed with the Arkansas State University (A-State) Baseball Turf Capital Project.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve all capital projects.

BACKGROUND:

- The System is requesting to proceed with the installation of turf on the baseball field at A-State.
- This capital project will be financed through institutional reserves of \$2,200,000.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System is approved to proceed with the Arkansas State University Baseball Turf Capital Project.

Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Secretary

Christy Clark, Chair

ASU System Capital Project Proposal Form

In accordance with Board policy, the term "capital project" means a new construction, renovation, or remodeling project with a projected cost exceeding \$1,000,000. Campus officials shall complete a Capital Project proposal form and submit it to the President for review and recommendations. The President will submit Capital Project proposals to the Board of Trustees for approval. Forms should be submitted electronically to the System Vice President for Finance.

Institution	Arkansas State University-Jonesboro(A-State)	Date	8/16/24
Project Name	Baseball Turf		

Project Description (in detail)

Installation of turf at the baseball field.

Estimated Date of Commencement	09/01/24
Estimated Date of Completion	01/31/25
Total Project Cost Estimate	\$ 2,200,000

Please provide the detail of cost estimate below:

	Estimated Project Cost
Construction (include cost of built-in equipment)	\$ 2,108,387
Architect/Engineer Fees	0
Contingencies (not to exceed 10% of Construction and A&E)	91,613
Land Purchases	0
Movable Equipment and Furniture	
Total Cost of Project	2,200,000

Please provide details of planned sources of funding:

	Amount	Percentage
General Improvement	0	0.0%
Institutional Reserves	2,200,000	100.0%
Institutional Operating Funds	0	0.0%
Federal Grant Funds	0	0.0%
Special Revenue Funds	0	0.0%
Foundation or Other Private Monies	0	0.0%
Loan Proceeds (if approved)		0.0%
Total Proposed Funding	2,200,000	100.0%

Notes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Russ Hannah (870) 972-3303

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University (A-State) requests approval to apply for a grant from the Arkansas Department of Human Services to continue participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

ISSUE: A resolution from the Board of Trustees is required to apply for this grant.

BACKGROUND:

- The CACFP provides food services to approximately 600 children in the Arkansas Delta Region.
- The Department of Childhood Services in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences participates in this program.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that A-State is approved to apply for a grant from the Arkansas Department of Human Services to continue participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Robert G. Rudolph, Jr., Secretary

Christy Clark, Chair

**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A Resolution Recognizing the Significant Contributions of
The Slayton Family Foundation
to Arkansas State University (A-State)

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has retained unto itself the authority to pay tribute to notable people and organizations by naming facilities and programs of the campuses within the Arkansas State University System in their honor; and

WHEREAS, the Slayton Family Foundation is a highly respected organization in the community, supporting A-State and the students we serve; and

WHEREAS, the Slayton Family Foundation has made significant contributions to A-State of a magnitude worthy of special gratitude and lasting recognition, including a donation to the Red Wolves Foundation to provide programmatic support for the A-State Baseball Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System, that the baseball field on the A-State campus shall be known henceforth through December 31, 2044, as the:

Slayton Family Field

DULY ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 6th day of September 2024

Christy Clark, Chair

Steve Eddington, Vice Chair

Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Secretary

Paul Rowton, Member

Price Gardner, Member

Gary Harpole, Member

Jerry Morgan, Member

Robert Myers, Interim President

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Talisha Givan (870) 230-5187

ACTION ITEM: Henderson State University (HSU) requests approval to offer reduced credit-hour degrees in the following programs: Bachelor of Arts degree in Digital Media Production (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science Pre-Dental Hygiene (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science Pre-Pharmacy (accelerated pathway); and Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science Pre-Veterinary (accelerated pathway).

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the offering of any new degree.

BACKGROUND:

- In March 2024, the Higher Learning Commission released information concerning the acceptance of applications for reduced credit-hour programs. Conversations with the Arkansas Division of Higher Education indicated that HSU may serve as the pilot program for the state of Arkansas.
- The proposed reduced credit-hour degrees can be completed in six (6) semesters. In addition to the required courses listed for each degree, all students must complete the General Education Core Requirements, as specified by the University and required by the state.
- The proposed reduced credit-hour degrees do not replace the currently offered bachelor's degree in each discipline. Therefore, no new faculty or courses will be required. With the expected growth, there will be further conversations about faculty resources needed to maintain sustainability in the future.
- The proposed reduced credit-hour degrees support the mission of the University by providing fundamental knowledge, concepts, and practical skills acquired through both study of concepts and theory. This knowledge is applicable immediately upon successful completion of the respective programs, for both immediate employment in the workforce and subsequent success in graduate school.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Henderson State University is approved to offer reduced credit-hour degrees in the following programs: Bachelor of Arts degree in Digital Media Production (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science Pre-Dental Hygiene (accelerated pathway); Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science Pre-Pharmacy (accelerated pathway); and Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science Pre-Veterinary (accelerated pathway), effective Fall 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: TaLisha Givan (870) 230-5187

ACTION ITEM: Henderson State University (HSU) requests approval to rename the Henderson Aviation Flight Operations Center to become the “Arkansas Aviation Academy.”

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the naming of academic programs and facilities.

BACKGROUND:

- On June 6, 2024, the Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees approved the fees related to the HSU Aviation Flight Operations Center.
- Since the time of the June resolution, HSU has considered a name change to more accurately describe the activities conducted in the flight operations portion of the aviation program, separate from the Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation.
- The Arkansas Aviation Academy will continue to offer multi-engine certification for existing pilots in a non-credit program format.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Henderson State University is approved to rename the Henderson Aviation Flight Operations Center to become the “Arkansas Aviation Academy,” effective immediately.

Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Secretary

Christy Clark, Chair