

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
Atlanta, Georgia
September 16, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met virtually on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, accessible in Room 8003 of the Board's offices, 270 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, and simultaneously by BOR Webcast. Board Chair David B. Dove called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Present in addition to Board Chair Dove, were Board Vice Chair Deep J. Shah; Regents Tom Bradbury; Chris Cannon; Erin Hames; Samuel D. Holmes; James M. Hull; Cade Joiner; Patrick C. Jones; C. Everett Kennedy, III; Lowery Houston May; Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.; Harold Reynolds; T. Dallas Smith; Haynes Maier Studstill; Mathews D. Swift; and James K. Syfan, III. Regent Richard T. Evans was excused. Chancellor Sonny Perdue was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Regent Erin Hames, and seconded by Regent Patrick C. Jones, the Board members present voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 13, August 27, and September 4, 2026, Board meetings.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:05 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Vice Chair Cade Joiner, the Regents present unanimously approved the following items:

APPROVAL ITEMS

1. Upon a motion by Board Chair David B. Dove, and seconded by Regent Mathews D. Swift, the Committee approved a request from Georgia Gwinnett College to change its athletics association membership from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II, effective Fiscal Year 2029.
2. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Board Chair David B. Dove, the Committee approved a request from Valdosta State University to change its athletics association membership from Gulf South Conference (GSC) to the Peach Belt Conference (PBC), an affiliate of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II, effective Fiscal Year 2028.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and upon a motion made by Board Vice Chair Deep J. Shah, and seconded by Board Chair David B. Dove, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the committee meeting at approximately 9:24 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Committee on Academic Affairs met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:25 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Harold Reynolds, unless otherwise noted, upon motions properly made and seconded, the Regents present unanimously approved the following items:

ACTION ITEMS

1. Upon a motion properly made, and seconded by Regent Patrick C. Jones, the Committee approved the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Health Science at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, effective spring 2027.
2. Upon a motion made by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Regent Patrick C. Jones, the Committee approved the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Public Health at Augusta University, effective fall 2027.
3. Upon a motion made by Regent Erin Hames, and variously seconded, the Committee approved the termination of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and the Master of Science in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability at the University of Georgia, effective fall 2026.
4. Upon a motion properly made, and variously seconded, the Committee approved the termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Art History at Kennesaw State University, effective fall 2026.
5. Upon a motion properly made, and seconded by Regent Erin Hames, the Committee approved the termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and the Master of Education in Middle Grades Language Arts at Georgia Southwestern State University, effective fall 2026.
6. Upon a motion made by Board Chair David B. Dove, and seconded by Regent Erin Hames, the Committee approved the naming of the John Lewis School of Public Policy and Social Sciences at Savannah State University, effective September 16, 2026.

CONSENT ITEMS

7. The Committee approved the establishment of the Dr. Jim and Nancy Buntin Distinguished Chair in Emergent Technology at Columbus State University, effective January 1, 2027.
8. The Committee approved the establishment of the GRA Eminent Scholar Distinguished University Chair in Immunology at Augusta University, effective September 16, 2026.
9. The Committee approved the redesignations of the following existing endowed positions at Augusta University, effective September 16, 2026.

Named Endowed Position	Proposed Endowed Position
Curtis G. Hames, M.D. Distinguished Chair for the Department of Family Medicine	Curtis G. Hames, M.D. Distinguished University Chair for the Department of Family Medicine
Kellett Distinguished Chair of Nursing	Kellett Distinguished University Chair in Nursing

Continued

Named Endowed Position	Proposed Endowed Position
Dr. Marvin C. Goldstein Chair in Orthodontics	Dr. Marvin C. Goldstein Distinguished Chair in Orthodontics
William S. Hagler, M.D. Chair in Ophthalmology	William S. Hagler, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology
Thomas P. Hinman Chair of Restorative Dentistry	Thomas P. Hinman Distinguished Chair of Restorative Dentistry
J. Harold Harrison, MD Distinguished University Chair in Surgery	J. Harold Harrison, MD Distinguished University Chair in Vascular Surgery

10. The Committee approved several named faculty positions at Augusta University and the University of Georgia.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and upon a motion properly made and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the committee meeting at approximately 9:32 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: PERSONNEL AND BENEFITS

The Committee on Personnel and Benefits met as a committee of the whole at approximately 9:33 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Chris Cannon, the following information item was presented to the Board:

INFORMATION ITEM

Joe Strong, Associate Vice Chancellor of Total Rewards Employee Benefits, presented an update regarding changes to the administration of the USG retirement plans, effective January 1, 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and upon a motion properly made, and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the committee 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 Haynes Maier Studstill, unless otherwise noted, upon motions properly made and seconded, the Regents present unanimously approved the following items:

APPROVAL ITEMS

1. Upon a motion by Regent Lowery Houston May, and seconded by Regent Harold Reynolds, the Committee approved mutual aid agreements between South Georgia State College and local law enforcement agencies as follows: (1) Coffee County Sheriff's Office, (2) Ware County Board of Education, (3) Ware County Emergency Management Agency, (4) Ware County Sheriff's Office, (5) Coffee County Board of Education, (6) City of Douglas, and (7) Coffee County Emergency Management Agency.
2. Upon a motion by Board Vice Chair Deep J. Shah, and seconded by Regent Erin Hames, the Committee approved mutual aid agreements between Valdosta State University and local law enforcement agencies as follows: (1) Valdosta Police Department, and (2) Lowndes County Sheriff Office and Sheriff Ashley Paulk.
3. Upon a motion by Regent Erin Hames, and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Committee approved mutual aid agreements between Georgia Southwestern State University and local law enforcement agencies as follows: (1) Sumter County, Georgia, and (2) City of Americus, Georgia.
4. Upon a motion by Regent Erin Hames, and seconded by Board Chair David B. Dove, the Committee approved the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree by the University of Georgia to Joan T.A. Gabel.

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. 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 a motion properly made, and variously seconded, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the committee meeting at approximately 9:43 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 9:43 a.m. During its meeting led by Committee Chair Mathews D. Swift, an information item was presented to the Board, and unless otherwise noted, the Regents present unanimously approved the following items:

INFORMATION ITEM

1. The Committee received a written report of real estate actions taken between April 1, 2026, and July 31, 2026, within the authority delegated by the Board to the Vice Chancellor for Real Estate and Facilities.

CONSENT ITEMS

2. The Committee approved the naming of the baseball stadium press box located within Burger King Stadium at Ragsdale Field on the campus of Columbus State University as the "Scott Miller Press Box".

3. The Committee approved the naming of the courtyard located adjacent to the new School of Medicine Building at the University of Georgia as “The Correll Family Foundation Courtyard”.
4. The Committee approved the naming of the Promenade on the Dahlonega Campus of the University of North Georgia as the “Dr. Bonita C. Jacobs Promenade”.
5. The Committee approved the ranking of the design professional firms for project number J-465, One Arsenal Place Renovation, for Columbus State University. The design professional firms, in rank order, were:
 - 1) Lord Aeck Sargent Planning & Design, Inc. (Atlanta)
 - 2) Pond & Company (Peachtree Corners)
 - 3) Walker Architects, Inc. (Atlanta)
 - 4) McMillan Pazdan Smith, LLC. (Atlanta)

Regent James M. Hull recused himself from any discussion or vote on this item.

6. The Committee approved the ranking of the design professional firms for project number J-466, Strickland Hall Renovation, for the University of North Georgia. The design professional firms, in rank order, were:
 - 1) LS3P Associates LTD. (Atlanta)
 - 2) Pond & Company (Peachtree Corners)
 - 3) Jericho Design Group, LLC (Cumming)
 - 4) Sizemore Group, LLC (Atlanta)
7. The Committee approved the ranking of the design professional firms for project number J-467, Renovations for Student Success and Construction Management Programs, for Kennesaw State University. The design professional firms, in rank order, were:
 - 1) Corgan Associates, Inc. (Atlanta)
 - 2) Cooper Carry, Inc. (Atlanta)
 - 3) Associated Space Design, Inc. dba ASD|SKY (Atlanta)
 - 4) PBK Architects Georgia, P.C. (Sugar Hill)
8. The Committee approved the ranking of the design professional firms for project number J-477, Renovation for Student Success and Career Services, for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The design professional firms, in rank order, were:
 - 1) Cogdell & Mendrala Architects, P.C. (Savannah)
 - 2) 2WR of Georgia, Inc. (Columbus)
 - 3) McMillan Pazdan Smith, LLC. (Atlanta)
 - 4) PBK Architects Georgia, P.C. (Sugar Hill)
 - 5) CDH Partners, Inc. (Atlanta)

APPROVAL ITEMS

9. Upon a motion by Board Chair David B. Dove, and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Committee authorized Project No. BR-10-2702, Oglethorpe House Renovation, for the University of Georgia.
10. Upon a motion by Regent Tom Bradbury, and seconded by Board Chair David B. Dove, the Committee authorized an amendment to a rental agreement to accommodate development of the North Campus Dining Hall in University Village on the Kennesaw Campus of Kennesaw State University.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, and upon a motion made by Regent Samuel D. Holmes, and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Regents who were present voted unanimously to adjourn the committee meeting at approximately 9:51 a.m.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Sonny Perdue gave his monthly report. He began by thanking the presidents, faculty, and staff for a great start to the fall semester. Then, Chancellor Perdue stated that he was proud of the good work being done by the staff across the System to serve the students. He continued his report by recalling the excitement around the FIFA World Cup, stating that it was good that the international guests had the chance to experience the American spirit of sports. Chancellor Perdue added that he had another data point to share about that enthusiasm which was regarding the University of Georgia's (UGA) women's soccer team. He shared that last month UGA's women soccer team set the all-time National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) college soccer attendance record, for women's teams as well as for men's teams. Chancellor Perdue stated that 25,433 fans filled Sanford Stadium to see their game, which they won against James Madison University by a score of 6 to 0. Chancellor Perdue stated that this match was played to honor the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Women's National Team's 1996 Olympic gold medal win which also took place at Sanford Stadium. Chancellor Perdue also recognized Valdosta State University's women's soccer team, the University of North Georgia's men's and women's soccer teams, and the men's and women's soccer teams at Georgia Gwinnett College, all of whom have gotten their seasons off to great starts. He also shared that it is college football season and many of USG's football teams are also off to great starts.

Chancellor Perdue continued by sharing that the Princeton Review named the Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) and the University of Georgia (UGA) No. 1 and No. 12, respectively, among the top fifty best value public universities and congratulated Presidents Ángel Cabrera (GIT) and Jere Morehead (UGA). He also shared that for three consecutive years there have been enrollment increases within the USG system. Chancellor Perdue continued by saying that enrollment numbers are important, however, even more important is that students complete their degrees. He added that the purpose of the System is to ensure that issues like affordability never prevent Georgia's students from completing their degrees. Then Chancellor Perdue thanked Governor Brian Kemp and the General Assembly for their support in making the Dedicating Resources to Educationally Advance More Students (DREAMS) scholarship a reality. He also noted that in August 2026 the System held its annual USG Foundation Scholarship and Awards Gala at the Georgia Aquarium and raised over \$2.4 million to support student success, with net proceeds to benefit the state's DREAMS Scholarship Endowment. He expressed his gratitude to Scott Bryant, Vice Chancellor for Development and CEO of the USG Foundation, Anna Groce, Assistant Vice Chancellor for

Development; and the USG Foundation team, the USG Board and Regent Cade Joiner for their work on the gala. Chancellor Perdue continued to report that sixty-nine students at Augusta University have been the benefactors of the DREAMS scholarship and statewide almost 1,080 students across the System have also already received the DREAMS scholarships, which totals an estimated of \$2.5 million of this scholarship awarded so far.

Also, Chancellor Perdue discussed University System Office staffing updates. He first announced that the System has filled two positions in Government Relations. Merritt Wall accepted the position of Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, effective October 1, 2026. She brings more than two decades of experience in higher education leadership, legislative strategy, and government affairs to this role, most recently at Middle Georgia State University, where she served as Chief Government and Community Relations Officer, and she did similar work at Valdosta State University. Chancellor Perdue also shared that Sam Dindoffer joined USG as Director of Government Relations; Mr. Dindoffer has extensive experience in higher education, state government, and legislative affairs, and most recently served as Director of Government and Alumni Relations at Dalton State College. He also shared that Jordon Toney joined the team as the Senior Talent Acquisition Specialist; Mr. Toney will support Ann Yates, Vice Chancellor of Executive Talent and Search, in the System's recruiting and search efforts to identify exceptional candidates and leaders. Next, Chancellor Perdue reported that Kristina Torres was promoted to Vice Chancellor of Communications; for over nine years, Ms. Torres's role has included speechwriting and strategic messaging to navigate crisis communications for both the System Office and USG's campuses. He commented that Ms. Torres knows USG's mission.

Chancellor Perdue also expressed his gratitude to USG's Board for the unanimous vote on the charter and naming of the Michael E. Tennenbaum Family Institute for Technology and Civic Leadership at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He continued his report by sharing a celebratory event that he recently attended. He shared that he attended the University of Georgia's (UGA) first-ever White Coat Ceremony. Chancellor Perdue expressed that it was a special group of students and that he got to go down the line and shake hands with each student. He continued by saying that he and the System have great aspirations for them as Georgia's future medical professionals. Chancellor Perdue stated that Georgia needs them, and that the System is excited to see how far they will go. He continued by congratulating President Jere Morehead, UGA, on this momentous occasion. Chancellor Perdue added that the System is looking forward to another successful year for USG's campuses and students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Regent Cade Joiner gave a post event update on the 2026 USG Foundation annual gala, which took place on August 22, 2026. Regent Joiner commented that it was a great event and that over \$2.4 million was raised. Regent Joiner thanked the USG Foundation team and the volunteers. He also highlighted the student leaders that spoke at the event and commented that it was refreshing to see the talent that USG has across the System. Regent Joiner thanked the Board members and everyone for their generous contributions.

Also, Regent James M. Hull gave a historical perspective on the annual USG Foundation gala. He stated that he can remember the gala raising \$300,000, which was good; and applauded

Regent Joiner for the great job that he has done exceeding that amount.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary to the Board Christopher McGraw announced that there were no petitions or communications for the Board to consider and that the next regularly scheduled Board of Regents meeting will be held on October 6-7, 2026, at the University of Georgia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Chair David B. Dove called for an executive session at approximately 10:09 a.m. Upon a motion made by Regent James M. Hull, and variously seconded, the Board members 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 David B. Dove reconvened the Board meeting in its regular session at approximately 1:17 p.m. and announced that no action was taken in executive session. He then announced that the meeting would be in recess until 4:00 p.m.

Board Chair Dove called the meeting back to order at 4:03 p.m. Upon a motion by Board Vice Chair Deep J. Shah, and seconded by Regent Harold Reynolds, the Board members who were present voted unanimously to name Thomas A. Fanning the sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of the University System of Georgia

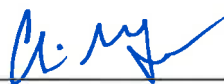
Board Chair Dove announced that there would be a specially called meeting to hold a final vote on or about October 1, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon a motion made by Regent Erin Hames and seconded by Regent Lowery Houston May, the Board members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:06 p.m.



David B. Dove
Chairman, Board of Regents
University System of Georgia



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