



Board of Trustees Meeting by Zoom

Arkansas State University System

Friday, June 27, 2025 at 8:30 AM

By Zoom/ASU System Office

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome

III. Agenda

A. Proposed ASU System Resolutions

- 1. Resolution #25-24 approving the ASU System Office FY26 operating budget and the authority to execute the budget**
- 2. Resolution #25-25 approving the ASU System to proceed with Phase II of renovations to the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum for Arkansas State University**
- 3. Resolution #25-26 approving the ASU System to proceed with Phase I of the restoration of the Duke Wells Center at Henderson State University**

IV. Executive Session

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (System) requests approval of the FY2026 System Office operating budget, and the authority to execute this budget, during the fiscal year.

ISSUE: Each fiscal year, the Board of Trustees must also approve the operating budget of the System Office.

BACKGROUND:

The operating budget establishes expenditure levels for certain categories of expense, including salaries, supplies and services, and capital-related expenditures. Moreover, the budget establishes sound fiscal policy, by which the System Office manages its annual fiscal affairs.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICE:

The Arkansas State University System Office is funded as a non-formula entity with an FY2026 operating budget of \$5,287,520, of which \$2,908,591 is categorized as a state appropriation, and with \$2,378,929 coming from other sources, including institution and Foundation support. A COLA raise of 2% is currently proposed for System Office staff for FY2026, at a projected net cost of \$59,940. The projected total increase in budgeted salaries, as a result of the COLA raises, promotion raises, position eliminations and creations, and net effect of adjustments for FY2026 over FY2025, is projected at \$328,672.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System's operating budget, including the System Office budget, and salary adjustment plan are approved, and authority is granted to execute the budget in the amount of \$5,287,520.



Paul Rowton, Secretary



Steve Eddington, Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (ASU System) requests approval to proceed with Phase II of renovations to the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum for Arkansas State University.

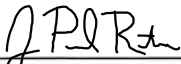
ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve all capital projects.

BACKGROUND:

- The ASU System is requesting approval to proceed with Phase II of the grain bin upgrades at the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in Tyronza, AR. Phase II will include the addition of a six-foot, chain-link fence; lockable guards; new lighting; security cameras; crosswalk with signage and flashing lights; two large "smart" monitors for image/video display; and landscape improvements. Arkansas State University received a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Commission (ANCRC), allowing complete renovations.
- The capital project will be funded through an ANCRC grant of \$1,272,000.
- A copy of the Capital Project Proposal Form is attached to this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System is approved to proceed with Phase II renovations to the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum for Arkansas State University.



Paul Rowton, Secretary



Steve Eddington, 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	Date	6/17/25
Project Name	Southern Tenant Farmers Museum-Phase II		

Project Description (*in detail*)

Phase II is a continuation of the grain bin upgrades at the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in Tyrone, AR. Phase II includes the addition of a 6' chain link fencing, lockable guards, new lighting, security cameras, crosswalk with signage and flashing lights, two large "smart" monitors for image/video display, and landscape improvements.

Estimated Date of Commencement	07/01/25
Estimated Date of Completion	06/30/26
Total Project Cost Estimate	\$ 1,272,000

Please provide the detail of cost estimate below:

	Estimated Project Cost
Construction (include cost of built-in equipment)	\$ 1,167,000
Architect/Engineer Fees	105,000
Contingencies (not to exceed 10% of Construction and A&E)	
Land Purchases	
Movable Equipment and Furniture	
Total Cost of Project	1,272,000

Please provide details of planned sources of funding:

	Amount	Percentage
General Improvement		0.0%
Institutional Reserves		0.0%
Institutional Operating Funds		0.0%
Federal Grant Funds		0.0%
Special Revenue Funds	1,272,000	100.0%
Foundation or Other Private Monies		0.0%
Loan Proceeds (if approved)		0.0%
Total Proposed Funding	1,272,000	100.0%

Notes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (ASU System) requests approval to proceed with Phase I of the restoration of the Duke Wells Center at Henderson State University (HSU).

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

BACKGROUND:

- The ASU System is requesting approval to proceed with Phase I of the restoration of the Duke Wells Center at HSU. Henderson State University received a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Commission (ANCRC), which will cover the costs to repair mechanical/plumbing elements, as well as the wood flooring, in its historic gymnasium.
- The capital project will be funded through an ANCRC grant of \$1,300,000.
- A copy of the Capital Project Proposal Form is attached to this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System is approved to proceed with Phase I of the restoration of the Duke Wells Center at Henderson State University.



Paul Rowton, Secretary



Steve Eddington, 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

Henderson State University

Date 6/9/25

Project Name

Phase I of the Duke Wells Center Restoration

Project Description (in detail)

The ANCRC Fiscal Year 2026 Grant for this project will cover costs to repair mechanical/plumbing elements and historic gymnasium wood flooring in Phase One. Exterior elements have succumbed to deterioration and damage due to weather and natural elements over the last several decades, the roof replacement and exterior repairs will be covered in Phase Two. Interior elements are worn out, outdated, failing and in great need of replacement, these work elements will be covered in Phase Three.

Estimated Date of Commencement

07/01/25

Estimated Date of Completion

05/30/25

Total Project Cost Estimate

\$ 1,300,000

Please provide the detail of cost estimate below:

	Estimated Project Cost
Construction (include cost of built-in equipment)	\$ 1,072,500
Architect/Engineer Fees	227,500
Contingencies (not to exceed 10% of Construction and A&E)	
Land Purchases	
Movable Equipment and Furniture	
Total Cost of Project	1,300,000

Please provide details of planned sources of funding:

	Amount	Percentage
General Improvement	0	0.0%
Institutional Reserves	0	0.0%
Institutional Operating Funds	0	0.0%
Federal Grant Funds	0	0.0%
Special Revenue Funds	1,300,000	100.0%
Foundation or Other Private Monies	0	0.0%
Loan Proceeds (if approved)		0.0%
Total Proposed Funding	1,300,000	100.0%

Notes

ANCRC Funded



Board of Trustees Meeting
Arkansas State University System
Friday, June 27, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.
Virtual

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Eddington, Robert Rudolph, Paul Rowton (virtual), Price Gardner, Gary Harpole (virtual), Jerry Morgan (virtual), Carole Farmer

Call to Order

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Eddington at 8:30 a.m.

Agenda

- I. Proposed ASU System Resolution
 - a. Resolution #25-24 approving the ASU System Office FY26 operating budgets and the authority to execute the budgets.

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU System Resolution 25-24 was made by Price Gardner and seconded by Robert Rudolph. The resolution was passed with a 5-2 vote.

Discussion:

Trustee Farmer noted regarding the new positions for the FY26 ASU System Budget, "First, I want to make clear that I am in favor of new positions that provide efficiencies along with coordinated consistent, timely support across our systems and campuses. With the multitude of challenges that are faced by our chancellors every year, each new system position should be presented with clarity in their value, need and support of each campus. Unfortunately, at this time, this is unclear to me for all new positions presented in this budget today. If this budget is approved, I trust our board to continue to monitor financial

position closely throughout the year and understand that adjustments may be necessary if fiscal conditions warrant such adjustments. I want to recognize our current system staff. I appreciate all the support they currently provide to our campuses and the board on daily basis, but as board we must demonstrate what it means to practice more strategic budgeting that reflects our shared commitment to sustainability, transparency and accountability.”

President, Dr. Kelly, responded, “I think the value system that Trustee Farmer laid out is one that I fully agree with, and it has always come upon me as the tip of the spear to make certain that we create alignment around those decisions. I would also agree that it is a set of measures that we should continually monitor because our environment is dynamic, and if the environment changes, our needs change, and we are going to do that accordingly, and we will do that in constant alignment with the board.”

Additionally, Trustee Morgan stated, “First and foremost, I want to be very clear in my support for our System Office and the current staff that we have in place. Our team has done and continues to do great work in supporting our campuses, students and staff across the state in a very efficient and productive manner. As we are aware, Higher Education is facing significant challenges moving forward with the potential decrease in enrollment not only in Arkansas but across the nation along with potential cuts to federal funding and increased expenses over several different areas. While I do support the additional positions that will continue to add efficiency to the support staff of the campuses we serve, I feel we must be cautious of the amount of increases based on the factors I’ve stated above. My personal recommendation would be to review part of the additions to the staffing levels during the middle of the fiscal year, that would give us more information related to Fall enrollment numbers and other budgetary factors, but based on those concerns I mentioned above I’m not in support of the proposed budget in its current form”.

- b. Resolution #25-25 approving the ASU System to proceed with Phase II of renovations to the Southern Tennant Farmers Museum for Arkansas State University.

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU System Resolution 25-25 was made by Carole Farmer and seconded by Gary Harpole. The resolution was passed unanimously.

- c. Resolution #25-26 approving the ASU System to proceed with Phase I of restoration of the Duke Wells Center at Henderson State University

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU System Resolution 25-26 was made by Robert Rudolph and seconded by Paul Rowton. The resolution was passed unanimously.

II. Other Business

III. Adjournment

Mr. Eddington asks for a motion to adjourn

Motion:

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 a.m.

Paul Rowton, Secretary

Steve Eddington, Chair