



Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Virtual and ASU System Office

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of the Past Meetings: December 10, 2025, and February 13, 2026
- III. President's Report
- IV. Agenda

A. Proposed Arkansas State University System (ASU) Resolutions

1. Resolution #26-07 approving the ASU System to apply for a loan for the development of capital projects
2. Resolution #26-08 approving ASU System institutions to pursue new business structures which would include those for housing, academic buildings, research partnerships, and intercollegiate athletics
3. Resolution #26-09 approving the Chair of the ASU System Board of Trustees to appoint a task force to begin work on a strategic plan for the operation of the ASU System
4. Resolution #26-10 approving the ASU System to proceed with Phase I of the CREST Center Capital Project at A-State
5. Resolution #26-11 approving the ASU System to explore and pursue potential New Market Tax Credits financing associated with the development and construction of the Health Sciences Center at Arkansas State University-Newport
6. Resolution #26-12 approving the ASU System to explore and pursue potential New Market Tax Credits financing associated with the development and construction of the Center for Research, Education, and Workforce Training (CREST) at Arkansas State University

- B. Proposed Arkansas State University (A-State) Resolution
 - 1. Resolution #26-13 approving A-State to grant a permanent right-of-way easement to the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, to construct and maintain pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements
- C. Proposed Arkansas State University Three Rivers (ASUTR) Resolution
 - 1. Resolution #26-14 approving ASU Three Rivers to grant a permanent-right-of-way easement to the City of Malvern, Arkansas, to construct and maintain a water service line extension

V. Executive Session

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (System) requests approval to seek a loan in order to develop capital projects.

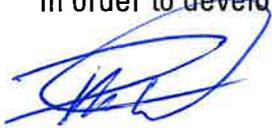
ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve all requests for financing for the System and its institutions.

BACKGROUND:

- The institutions within the ASU System have potential projects funded by federal, local, and private sources. To effectively manage the funding cadence for these projects, the System wishes to seek a short-term loan. The System will utilize state procurement regulations to select an appropriate financial institution.
- The System requests authorization to finance a loan of up to \$5 million, at an estimated maximum interest rate of 5.00%, for a term not to exceed five years. The source of funds for debt service will be derived from tuition and fees.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Arkansas State University System is authorized to seek a loan for up to \$5 million, at an estimated interest rate of 5.00%, for a term not to exceed five years, in order to develop capital projects as allowed by law.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (System) requests approval for System institutions to pursue new business structures which would include those for housing, academic buildings, research partnerships, and intercollegiate athletics.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must provide approval for System institutions to pursue such proposal.

BACKGROUND:

- Institutions within the ASU System are responsible for addressing their infrastructure needs, which may include housing, academic buildings, and other real property designed to serve our students.
- The State of Arkansas does not have a dedicated and funded facilities account for institutions of higher education to use to address facility needs, as it does for K-12 schools.
- To address these facility needs, institutions often rely upon philanthropic donations, reserve funds, public-private partnerships, or the issuance of new debt. At the same time, institutions must take all reasonable steps to maintain affordability, so that students are provided appropriate facilities.
- Certain ASU System institutions have infrastructure needs that clearly must be addressed. In addition, many System institutions have opportunities that could benefit students through partnerships in research and intercollegiate athletics. In many cases, these needs should be addressed in an expedited manner.
- The ASU System requests approval to allow System institutions to pursue all options to address infrastructure, research and intercollegiate athletics needs in a fiscally responsible way. These may include the establishment of new corporate structures, partnership agreements with existing private entities, and the issuance of debt or other structures that could be used to address these needs.
- Before any agreements, pursued as part of this resolution, may be executed, those agreements must be allowed by law, approved by the ASU System President, and presented to the Board for approval.
- The ASU System staff will partner with each System Institution in addressing these needs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that institutions within the Arkansas State University System are approved to pursue new business structures, which would include those for housing, academic buildings, research partnerships, and intercollegiate athletics.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph, Sr., Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Chair of the Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees (Board) seeks approval to appoint a Task Force to begin work on a strategic plan for the operation of the ASU System.

ISSUE: The Board approves the establishment of any task force that directs the work of the ASU System.

BACKGROUND:

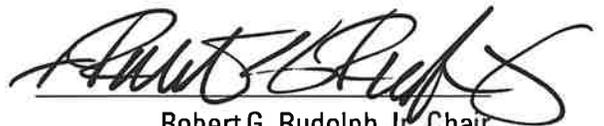
- A strategic plan is needed to define the role, scope, and work of the ASU System.
- The Chair of the Board shall, within 10 business days from the date of this resolution, appoint members to serve on a task force to accomplish this work. The task force will receive support from members of the ASU System Office.
- The task force shall prepare a series of recommendations, including a strategic plan, for the Board to consider at a public meeting.
- The task force shall operate in compliance with applicable state and federal laws at all times.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Chair of the Arkansas State University Board of Trustees is approved to appoint a task force to begin work on a strategic plan for the operation of the ASU System.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair

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 CREST Center Capital Project at Arkansas State University (A-State).

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

BACKGROUND:

- The ASU System is requesting approval to complete Phase I of the CREST Center Capital Project at A-State. The CREST Center Capital Project is designed as an approximately 70,000-square-foot facility that will be constructed in a three-phase construction option. Phase I will consist of the creation of 26,000 square feet of the Project.
- A-State received a grant of \$7,500,000 from the Arkansas Department of Commerce's HIRED Grant Program, as well as \$3,000,000 in other private or public funds, and \$4,500,000 in loan proceeds, all of which will allow for completion of Phase I of the CREST Center Capital Project.
- 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 CREST Center Capital Project at Arkansas State University.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (ASU System) requests authorization for designated officers to explore and pursue potential New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) financing associated with the development and construction of the Health Sciences Center on the campus of Arkansas State University-Newport (ASUN) in Newport, Arkansas.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees (Board) of the ASU System is authorized under the Constitution and laws of the State of Arkansas to approve and authorize appropriate officers of the ASU System to pursue financing structures that support capital development projects. One potential financing tool available to support the Health Sciences Center project at ASUN is the federal NMTC program, authorized under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides incentives for private investment in projects located in qualifying low-income communities.

BACKGROUND:

- ASUN has identified the need to construct a Health Sciences Center to expand healthcare education, workforce training, and clinical simulation opportunities for students pursuing careers in the healthcare field. The proposed facility will support regional healthcare workforce needs by providing expanded instructional space, simulation laboratories, and training environments designed to prepare students for careers in nursing, allied health, and other high-demand healthcare professions.
- As part of the project-financing strategy, ASUN and the ASU System are evaluating the potential use of NMTCs to help support the cost of developing the Health Sciences Center. The NMTC program encourages investment in projects located in qualifying low-income communities and may provide access to private investment capital that may reduce the overall financing cost of the project.
- Participation in the NMTC program may require the ASU System to work with Community Development Entities (CDEs) that receive NMTC allocations from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and to structure portions of the project financing in accordance with NMTC program requirements.
- This resolution authorizes designated ASU System officials to take the necessary steps to evaluate and pursue NMTC financing opportunities related to the Health Sciences Center project at ASUN.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

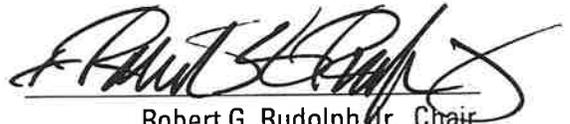
Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Chair and Secretary of the Board; the President; Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration; and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at ASU-Newport are hereby authorized to (a) explore and pursue potential NMTC financing for all, or a portion of, the cost associated with the development of the Health Sciences Center at ASUN; (b) work with Community Development Entities, tax credit investors, financial institutions, advisors, and other parties necessary to evaluate and structure NMTC financing opportunities for the project; (c) take such additional actions, including the execution of documents and agreements, as may be necessary or appropriate to advance the financing structure associated with the project; and (d) evaluate and pursue the creation or utilization of affiliated nonprofit entities or other structures, if necessary, to facilitate participation in the NMTC program.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

ACTION ITEM: The Arkansas State University System (ASU System) requests authorization for designated officers to explore and pursue potential New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) financing associated with the development and construction of the Center for Research, Education, and Workforce Training (CREST Center) on the campus of Arkansas State University (A-State) in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees (Board) of the ASU System is authorized under the Constitution and laws of the State of Arkansas to approve and authorize appropriate officers of the ASU System to pursue financing structures that support capital development projects. One potential financing tool available to support the CREST Center project is the federal NMTC program, authorized under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides incentives for private investment in projects located in qualifying low-income communities.

BACKGROUND:

- A-State has identified the need to construct the CREST Center in order to support workforce development, applied research, and industry-aligned training programs. The CREST Center will serve as a hub for advanced manufacturing education, workforce training, and partnerships with regional employers to strengthen the workforce pipeline in Northeast Arkansas.
- As part of the project-financing strategy, A-State and the ASU System are evaluating the potential use of NMTCs to help support the cost of developing the CREST Center. The NMTC program encourages investment in projects located in qualifying low-income communities and may provide access to private investment capital that can reduce the overall financing cost of the project.
- Participation in the NMTC program may require the ASU System to work with Community Development Entities (CDEs) that receive NMTC allocations from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and to structure portions of the project financing in accordance with NMTC program requirements.
- This resolution authorizes designated ASU System officials to take the necessary steps to evaluate and pursue NMTC financing opportunities related to the CREST Center project at A-State.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Jeff Hankins (501) 660-1004

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that the Chair and Secretary of the Board; the President; Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration; and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at A-State are hereby authorized to (a) explore and pursue potential NMTC financing for all, or a portion of, the cost associated with the development of the CREST Center at A-State; (b) work with Community Development Entities, tax credit investors, financial institutions, advisors, and other parties necessary to evaluate and structure NMTC financing opportunities for the project; (c) take such additional actions, including the execution of documents and agreements, as may be necessary or appropriate to advance the financing structure associated with the project; and (d) evaluate and pursue the creation or utilization of affiliated nonprofit entities or other structures, if necessary, to facilitate participation in the NMTC program.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Russ Hannah (870) 972-2285

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University (A-State) seeks approval to grant a permanent right-of-way easement to the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, located across A-State property in section 17, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, in Jonesboro, Craighead County, to construct and maintain pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the conveyance of easements affecting university property.

BACKGROUND:

- Arkansas State University owns real property in Jonesboro, located in Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of which the City of Jonesboro has requested a permanent right-of-way easement for the purpose of constructing and maintaining pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements.
- The easement, as shown and legally described in Exhibit A (Legal Description) and Exhibit B (Easement Map), will provide the City of Jonesboro access for these construction and maintenance projects, while preserving ASU's property rights and ensuring that all activity remains consistent with university operations.
- The Chancellor of Arkansas State University and the President of the ASU System recommend approval of the proposed easement, as the project will enhance accessibility and safety for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University is approved to grant a permanent right-of-way easement to the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, across A-State property, located in Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, in Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas, as described in the attached easement document. The Chancellor, or Chancellor's designee, is authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Steve Rook (501) 332-0232

ACTION ITEM: Arkansas State University Three Rivers (ASUTR) seeks approval to grant a permanent right-of-way easement to the City of Malvern, Arkansas, to construct and maintain a water service line extension located across the ASUTR property known as the Ritz Theatre & Conference Center, located at street addresses 213, 217, 219, and 221 South Main Street, in Malvern, Hot Spring County, Arkansas.

ISSUE: The Board of Trustees must approve the conveyance of easements affecting university property.

BACKGROUND:

- ASUTR owns real property in Malvern, known as the Ritz Theatre & Conference Center, located at street addresses 213, 217, 219, and 221 South Main Street, where existing water service is insufficient for current and projected facility use.
- The City of Malvern has agreed to upgrade the water service line, and accordingly, has requested a permanent right-of-way easement for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a new meter and a two-inch water service line extension.
- The construction and maintenance of the water service line would be conducted by Malvern Water Works, a department of the City of Malvern.
- The easement requested is located approximately 331 degrees northwest, to extend eight feet to point 64 degrees northeast, before turning to extend to the end point at 50 degrees northeast.
- The easement requested, as shown in Exhibit A, will provide the City of Malvern access for this construction and maintenance project, while preserving ASUTR's property rights and ensuring that all activity remains consistent with university operations.
- A legal description of the easement will be obtained prior to execution of any easement documents.
- The Chancellor of ASU Three Rivers and the ASU System President recommend approval of the proposed easement, as the project will enhance the use of the Ritz Theatre & Conference Center for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contact: Steve Rook (501) 332-0232

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved that Arkansas State University Three Rivers is approved to grant a permanent right-of-way easement to the City of Malvern, Arkansas, across the ASUTR property known as the Ritz Theatre & Conference Center, located at street addresses 213, 217, 219, and 221 South Main Street, in Malvern, Hot Spring County, Arkansas, as described herein. The Chancellor, or Chancellor's designee, is authorized to execute all documents necessary to achieve the intent of this resolution.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair



Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

ASU System Office and Virtual

Attendance

Members Present:

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

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Eddington at 5:00 p.m.

II. Executive Session

Motion:

A motion to retire in executive session was made by Robert Rudolph and seconded by Price Gardner. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Eddington announced, "This body has voted to retire into executive session to consider and discuss the resignation of ASU System President Brendan Kelly. We will reconvene in public session following this executive session to present and vote on any action arrived at in private."

The Board retired into executive session at 5:01 p.m.

Mr. Eddington reconvened the Board.

Mr. Eddington announced, "In executive session, we discussed Dr. Kelly's resignation from ASU and his acceptance of the position of President-elect at Eastern Michigan University. We took no action in executive session."

III. Adjournment

Mr. Eddington asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Robert Rudolph and seconded by Carole Farmer. It passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PR', written over a horizontal line.

Paul Rowton, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Steve Eddington', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Eddington, Chair



Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, February 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

ASU-Beebe

Attendance

Members Present:

Robert Rudolph, Paul Rowton, Price Gardner, Gary Harpole, Jerry Morgan, and Carole Farmer

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Rudolph at 10:01 a.m.

Chair Rudolph stated, "Before we begin today, I want us to pause – just for a moment – and acknowledge what many in our Jonesboro campus community are feeling right now. Moments like these remind us that universities are not just places of instruction; they are communities made up of people with real experiences and real concerns. When words or actions cause harm – especially harm rooted in hate or exclusion – it affects more than policy. It affects trust. It affects belonging. And it affects the heart of who we are. Let me say clearly: there is no place within the Arkansas State University System for language or behavior that demeans, devalues, or dehumanizes anyone. Every person in our community deserves to feel safe, respected, and seen. At the same time, we recognize our students. When they raise their voices peacefully, they are expressing a desire to be heard and a hope that their community will be better. That kind of engagement is not something to fear – it is something to respect. Listening is an essential part of leadership. We also understand this simple truth: students cannot learn well in spaces where they feel unsafe, unseen, or unwelcome. As a System, and as a Board, we are committed to the ongoing work of building campuses where dignity is the standard, care is evident, and belonging is real – not just stated. Our role is to lead with integrity, to act with responsibility, and to respond with compassion. That commitment will continue to guide us as we move forward together. With that spirit, we will not proceed with today's meeting."

- II. Approval of the Minutes of the Past Meeting: December 12, 2025

Motion

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2025, meeting was made by Gary Harpole and seconded by Carole Farmer. It passed unanimously.

III. President's Report

- Dr. Robin Myers, Interim President of the ASU System
- Dr. Jennifer Methvin, Chancellor of ASU-Beebe:
 - Introduction of ASU-Beebe Leadership Scholars
 - Introduction of Jacob Holloway, ASU-Beebe Alumni
- Landen Crancer, Associate Vice President for Finance and Operations & Chief of Staff of the ASU System
 - Presentation of the FY2025 Consolidated Financial Statement
- Todd Shields, Chancellor of Arkansas State University
 - Update on College of Veterinary Medicine

IV. Agenda

A. Proposed ASU System Resolutions

1. Resolution #26-01 conferring upon Steve Eddington the Designation of Trustee Emeritus

Jerry Morgan, Price Gardner, Paul Rowton, Gary Harpole, Carole Farmer, and Robert Rudolph each provided brief remarks regarding their well wishes to Steve and Vanna Eddington

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU System Resolution #26-01 was made by Gary Harpole and seconded by Price Gardner.

2. Resolution #26-02 approving the ASU System to proceed with the Reynolds Center Renovations Capital Project at ASU Mid-South

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU System #26-02 was made by Paul Rowton and seconded by Jerry Morgan. It passed unanimously.

3. Resolution #26-03 approving the ASU System to revise the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policy, currently found in the ASU System Staff Handbook, and create a separate Board policy

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU System Resolution #26-03 was made by Price Gardner and seconded by Carole Farmer. It passed unanimously.

B. Proposed Arkansas State University Resolution:

1. Resolution #26-04 approving A-State to rename and reorganize the Center for No-Boundary Thinking, currently housed in the College of Engineering and

Computer Science, to become the A-State Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence in the Arkansas Biosciences Institute

Motion:

A motion to approve A-State Resolution #26-04 was made by Paul Rowton and seconded by Gary Harpole. It passed unanimously.

C. Proposed ASU Mid-South Resolution:

1. Resolution #26-05 approving ASU Mid-South to offer a Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing

Motion:

A motion to approve ASU Mid-South Resolution #26-05 was made by Price Gardner and seconded by Jerry Morgan. It passed unanimously.

D. Proposed Henderson State University Resolution:

1. Resolution #26-06 approving Henderson State to name an Entrepreneurship Institute in the College of Business after Tad and Judy Krug

Price Gardner shared brief remarks regarding his knowledge of the Krug family and his support of the resolution

Motion:

A motion to approve Henderson State Resolution #26-06 was made by Paul Rowton and seconded by Price Gardner. It passed unanimously.

V. Executive Session

Motion:

A motion to retire into executive session was made by Gary Harpole and seconded by Jerry Morgan. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Rudolph announced: "This body has voted to retire into executive session to consider the personnel action items. We will reconvene into public session following this executive session to present and vote on any action arrived at in private."

The Board retired into executive session at 11:13 a.m.

Mr. Rudolph reconvened the Board at 12:40 p.m.

VI. Approval of Personnel Actions

Motion:

A motion to approve New Hires from November 16, 2025-January 19, 2026; ASU System Non-Academic Appointment; A-State Multi-Year Contracts; and Henderson State Multi-Year Contract was made by Gary Harpole and seconded by Jerry Morgan. It passed unanimously.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

Motion:

Mr. Rudolph asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Paul Rowton and seconded by Carole Farmer. It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.



Price Gardner, Secretary



Robert G. Rudolph Jr., Chair