



**KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH AND SERVICE FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025
11:00AM – 12:30PM
PRESIDENT'S BOARDROOM**

Members Present: Kat Schwaig (Chairperson), Ivan Pulinkala (CEO), Karin Scarpinato (COO), Ryan McLemore (CFO), Nwakaego Nkumeh Walker, Dana Johnson, Mahyar Armigholy, Catherine Kaukinen, Costas Simoglou, Courtney Law, Aimee Roper (non-voting member)

Guests Present: Chris Cornelison, Colin Ake, Jason Jenkins, Robert Bridges, Amber Ellithorpe, Nicole Ferguson, Decaro Combs (President Guest), Ann Schaffer (President Guest), Richard Crawford, Patricia Pryor (Cherry Bekeart)

- I. Call to Order @ 11:02am – Dr. Kathy Schwaig
- II. New member introduction – Dr. Kathy Schwaig
 - Catherine Kaukinen
 - Costas Simoglou
 - Mahyar Amirgholy
 - Courtney Law
- III. Updates from President's Office- Dr. Kathy Schwaig
 - Football Season wins
 - Graduating 3500 students in December
 - Summit II construction begins
 - Student competition team building opening
 - 677 active strategic plan items
 - Lesley Netter-Snowden announced as new Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer
 - Expanding Research Infrastructure
 - IStem set to open in January
 - HatchBridge facility opening
- IV. Updates from Academic Affairs- Dr. Ivan Pulinkala
 - KSU enrollment 51,735 students
 - Testing for enrollment comes back in Fall 2026
 - Student success metrics crossed 80%
 - 49.9% 6-year graduation rate

- KSU has the largest nursing programs in state of Georgia
- New degree in Aerospace Engineering
- New Dean in Education – joining 1/1/2026
- CCSE and Wellstar Dean searches will begin in spring

V. Updates from Office of Research- Dr. Karin Scarpinato

- Discussed purpose and role of KSURSF Board
- Discussed how KSU Research has grown
- Research is goal 2 of the strategic plan
- Student Engagement in Research
 - First Year Scholars 378 student accepted
 - Sophomore Scholars 38 accepted
 - Junior/Senior Scholars program is new this fall
 - VIP Program
- University level research centers include:
 - AMES
 - MOVE
 - CIM
 - CYPHR
- Research Center development and narrowing down specific areas
- Creating a community-university roadmap

VI. KSURSF Financial Update – Mr. Ryan McLemore

- Audit update from Cherry Bekaert
 - No concerns
- Revenues increased to approximately \$20M

VII. Updates Commercialization and HatchBridge – Mr. Colin Ake

- Overview of HatchBridge for new board members
- Since July 2023 serviced 187 companies and total have risen \$18M
- Analyzing opportunities for hosting programs in partnership with surrounding organizations
- Prototyping new programs including AI topics
- KSU hosting competition for USG Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- 2026 goals include expanding to Marietta Campus and expanding program offerings

VIII. Updates for Innovation and Commercialization – Dr. Chris Cornelison

- Announced Tom Waters is new Tech Transfer Director
- 31 Invention Disclosures
 - 14 have advanced to patent application
- Joined National Academy of Inventors

- Able to nominate KSU faculty
- 10 new GRA proposals
 - Actively recruiting for Markerspace Facility Manager
 - Oakridge University Corstiseum – Sponsored by Georgia Tech
 - Provides KSU with exclusive resources
- Corporate Engagement Strategy

IX. Adjournment at 12:05pm - Dr. Kathy Schwaig

- Motion to adjourn - Nwakaego Nkumeh Walker
- 2nd motion – Karin Scarpinato