

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Alabama
Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTING AG CHRIS MCCOOL ANNOUNCES CLOSING OF INVESTIGATION INTO ASU

(MONTGOMERY) – Acting Attorney General Chris McCool announced today that the investigation into alleged wrongdoing at Alabama State University (ASU) has been closed. (This statement is being issued in response to media inquiries regarding substantial information put in the public domain by other governmental agencies related to the investigation of ASU by the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division (SPD).)

This matter was opened following complaints from former employees and pursuant to a public referral from former Governor Robert Bentley, who served as the ex officio Chairman of the ASU Board of Trustees. Acting Attorney General McCool was appointed by former Attorney General Luther Strange, who recused himself.

In 2012, former Governor Bentley publicly announced that he was referring the matter for criminal investigation. Subsequently, Acting AG McCool directed SPD Chief Matt Hart to empanel a special grand jury in Montgomery County to investigate the allegations. The SPD worked in close coordination with the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama, which conducted its own investigation into ASU.

All of the allegations referred by the governor, and many more, were investigated. Extensive expert analyses of records and financial information were conducted. Dozens of witnesses and thousands of items of evidence were presented to the special grand jury. Acting Attorney General McCool personally participated in virtually every special grand jury session.

After evaluating all the evidence, the special grand jury declined to act on any allegation. For this reason, the matter is now closed.

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