

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA  
FLORENCE, ALABAMA  
9:00 a.m., Friday, December 6, 2019**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, December 6, 2019, in Banquet Hall C of the Guillot University Center in accordance with Section 6 of Act No. 773 of the 1967 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama. A letter from three Trustees (dated November 15, 2019) was sent via email to Governor Kay Ivey in care of her Director of Constituent Affairs, requesting that the Governor call the quarterly meeting for December 6. Proposed letters calling the Board to the meeting also were sent for the Governor's signature as per standard practice, and the same were mailed from the Governor's office to Trustees in advance of the meeting under the date of November 15, 2019. On November 25, Board members were advised via email that the agenda, proposed resolutions, and supporting documents for items of discussion were available for individual electronic access in the Canvas software system.

Board President Pro Tempore Simpson Russell called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

**I. INVOCATION**

Athletics Director Mark Linder offered the opening invocation.

**II. ROLL CALL**

President Kenneth D. Kitts called the roll, and the following members were in attendance:

Trustee Marty Abroms	Trustee Marcus Maples	Trustee Gary Smith
Trustee Joel Anderson	Trustee Steve Pierce	Trustee Will Trapp
Trustee Wendell Gunn	Trustee Simpson Russell	Trustee Anne Whitaker
Trustee Libby Jordan		

Therefore, a quorum was present. Absent were ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey and Trustee Todd Ouellette.

**Others present for all or part of the meeting:**

- Dr. Ross Alexander, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan, General Counsel
- Dr. Kimberly Greenway, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement
- Mr. Mark Linder, Athletics Director
- Mr. Ron Patterson, Chief Enrollment Officer and Assistant to the President for Diversity
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Joy Borah, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Honors College

- Mr. Jason Cochran, Exec. Director of Governmental Relations and Economic Development
- Ms. Cindy Conlon, Associate Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Interim Associate Director of Univ. Communications and Marketing
- Mr. Michael Gautney, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Dr. Felecia Harris, 2019-2020 Chair of Shared Governance Executive Committee
- Dr. Kevin Jacques, Director of University Center Operations and Events Management
- Ms. Leah Johnson, University Videographer/Photographer
- Mr. Sam Mashburn, President of Student Government Association
- Mr. Jim Page, Chair of the UNA Alumni Association's Project 208 Committee
- Dr. Vicki Pierce, Dean of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Dr. Lee Renfroe, President of Faculty Senate
- Mr. Jake Russell, Conference Coordinator
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Ms. Amy Thompson, President of Staff Senate
- Ms. Lisa Rickman, *TimesDaily* reporter
- Ms. Caroline Oglesby, *TimesDaily* photographer

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Russell submitted the agenda for consideration. Upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Mr. Trapp, the agenda was approved as presented by unanimous vote.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

With only one consent agenda item for this meeting, Mr. Russell submitted the minutes of the September 20, 2019, quarterly Board meeting for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Pierce, the consent agenda item was approved by unanimous vote.

### **V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Kitts gave brief remarks on the University's continuing efforts with regard to Project 208. He introduced Mr. Cochran as UNA's new governmental relations director, and then introduced Mr. Page as chair of the UNA Alumni Association's Project 208 Committee. Dr. Kitts yielded the remainder of his time to Mr. Page who discussed:

- The strong need for alumni in engaging with lawmakers to advocate for UNA;
- The budgetary outlook for Alabama's 2020 legislative session with regard to additional education dollars;
- UNA's state funding position as compared to other state institutions;
- Collective efforts that are essential in seeing UNA move to a more equitable funding position; and
- The need for Trustees to use their individual and collective political capital to advance UNA's interests in Montgomery.

## **VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Committee chair Trapp asked Dr. Alexander to review items on today's agenda that stemmed from this committee's meeting on December 5.

### **A. Resolution Approving a Master of Social Work Degree Program**

Following summary comments by Dr. Alexander, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Mr. Anderson, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

### **B. Accomplishments with Regard to 2019-2024 Strategic Plan**

Dr. Alexander gave summary comments on this six-month update of accomplishments related to the strategic plan. The next update will be provided at the June 2020 Board meeting. This information item required no action by the Board.

### **C. Academic Department Name Change from "Engineering Technology" to "Engineering and Technology"**

Dr. Alexander gave brief overview comments, noting that this name change is to satisfy accreditation requirements and to allow for flexibility in academic program offerings. This information item required no action by the Board.

### **D. Periodic Review of Institutional Mission Statement**

Dr. Alexander noted that accreditation standards require that the Mission and Vision Statement have periodic review by the institution's governing board. The Statement was last reviewed by the Board in 2014. Trustees were comfortable with the Statement as it currently stands and as is incorporated into the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan document. This item required no further action by the Board at this time.

As a side note and as related to the Project 208 discussion earlier in the meeting, Dr. Alexander advised that State officials have begun the process of considering a performance-based funding model for appropriation of dollars to higher education institutions. Dr. Alexander and Mr. Thornton are UNA's representatives on a working group that is in discussions to determine the metrics of this new funding mechanism.

## VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTER

Committee chair Whitaker reported on topics covered in this committee's December 5 meeting:

### A. Resolution Designating January 11 as "Founders' Day" at the University of North Alabama

Following summary comments by Ms. Whitaker, with the recommendation of the Advancement and University Relations Committee and upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Abrams, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

### B. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments

Ms. Whitaker gave general overview comments concerning the performance of these portfolios. There were no questions concerning the periodic investment report.

Ms. Whitaker noted that Mr. Haslam is keeping the Committee apprised with periodic reports on the good progress being made with regard to institutional advancement/development goals.

## VIII. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Pierce reported on topics covered during this committee's December 5 meeting. He asked that all Trustees be provided with more detailed information shared at that meeting. One information item from those committee discussions – **2020-2021 Athletic Ticket Prices** – was on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting. Mr. Linder noted that prices for next academic year remain the same as this year, but the University is moving to a dynamic ticketing model for certain "premium games." This information item required no action by the Board.

## IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee vice chair Pierce reported on the various topics covered during this committee's meeting on December 5 and that are on today's meeting agenda:

### A. Review of Financial Information for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019

UNA ended fiscal year 2018-2019 with revenue and expenditures very comparable to and consistent with the previous year. The year-end financial report was thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

As a side discussion, Mr. Pierce asked Mr. Thornton for an update on the **status of LaGrange Hall**. Closed now for almost five years, this residence hall's location places it as the gateway between the academic and residential sections of campus. The University is working on a design and financing plan to update and reopen that building so as to add approximately 220 beds by fall 2021. Trustees encouraged the administration to move ahead quickly in this plan to meet housing demands of the growing student population.

**B. Budgeting of Additional Funds Received During the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year**

Mr. Thornton briefly reviewed this information item that required no action by the Board. There were no questions concerning the report.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Russell asked for any items of other business to come before the Board. Dr. Kitts recognized his senior administrative team for their assistance in the smooth operation and efficiency of Board committee meetings, as well as for the many good things taking place at UNA. He also commended Ms. Eubanks for her efforts in generating much positive media attention for the University.

**XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Russell noted that an executive session was needed to discuss two matters from the Advancement and University Relations Committee. As an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama, Ms. Fite-Morgan could affirm that the Board's discussion of these matters in executive session was authorized under Section 3 of the Code of Alabama that allows for executive session to discuss the general reputation and character of individuals. Therefore, an executive session would be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Upon motion by Mr. Maples, second by Mr. Pierce, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 10:21 a.m. for a short break and to enter into executive session.


At approximately 10:30, the Board entered into executive session. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Greenway, and Mr. Haslam remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and the Board for the discussion of matters during this closed session.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 11:19 a.m. and had no other action items to present from its discussions in executive session.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Approved March 6, 2020

  
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President Pro Tempore

  
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Secretary