

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
1:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 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 May 23, 2018) was sent via email to Governor Kay Ivey in care of her Director of Constituent Affairs, requesting that the Governor call the quarterly meeting on June 13. 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 to the Trustees from the Governor's office in advance of the meeting under the date of May 23, 2018.

On June 6, 2018, 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.

In the absence of Governor Kay Ivey (the President of the Board), the meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Board President Pro Tempore Marty Abroms.

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 present:

Trustee Marty Abroms	Trustee Libby Jordan	Trustee Steve Pierce
Trustee Joel Anderson	Trustee Marcus Maples	Trustee Simpson Russell
Trustee Rodney Howard	Trustee Todd Ouellette	Trustee Anne Whitaker

Absent were ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey and Trustee Will Trapp.

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

- Dr. Ross Alexander, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan, University Attorney
- Mr. Mark Linder, Athletics Director
- Mr. Ron Patterson, Chief Enrollment Officer and Assistant to the President for Diversity
- Dr. Debbie Shaw, Vice President for University Advancement
- Mr. David Shields, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Ms. Jennifer Berry, Counselor in the Student Counseling Center
- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Honors College
- Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Tera Kirkman, Associate Dean of the Anderson College of Nursing

- Mr. Chase Holcombe, President of Student Government Association and *ex officio* non-voting member of the Board
- Mr. Michael Gautney, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Ms. Lynne Martin, Director of Student Counseling Services
- Mr. Bryan Rachal, Director of University Communications and Marketing
- Mr. Jake Russell, University Events Conference Coordinator
- Mr. Jarrod Russell, President of the Staff Senate
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- *TimesDaily* reporter Lisa Rickman and photographer Matt McKean
- WAFF-48 TV videographer

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Abrams submitted today's meeting agenda for approval. Upon motion by Ms. Jordan and second by Mr. Anderson, the agenda was approved unanimously as presented.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Abrams submitted the following items for consideration for collective approval:

- A. Minutes of March 20, 2018, Quarterly Board Meeting
- B. Resolution Approving Amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama to Correspond to Statutory Revisions Set Forth in Act 2018-144 of the Alabama Legislature
- C. Resolution Approving Renaming of the "Anderson College of Nursing" as the "Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions"
- D. Resolution of Commendation to Hugo Dante, 2017-2018 Student Government Association President, University of North Alabama
- E. Resolution of Commendation to Daniel Hallock, 2017-2018 Faculty Senate President, University of North Alabama
- F. Resolution of Commendation to Jarrod Russell, 2017-2018 Staff Senate President, University of North Alabama

Upon motion by Mr. Russell and second by Mr. Maples, the consent agenda items listed above were approved separately and severally by unanimous vote.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND Q&A ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DIVISIONAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Dr. Kitts gave a brief summary on the state of the University. His remarks included notes that:

- UNA will receive a 6.12% increase (or, an additional \$1.7 million) in its state appropriation for FY 2018-2019 as approved by the Alabama Legislature for next year's state budget. However, UNA continues to remain in last place in per-student state funding among Alabama's public four-year institutions.
- Large graduating classes (1,506 students this academic year alone) are making space issues more critical as commencement ceremonies are held in Flowers Hall. Senior administrators are discussing options such as additional ceremonies, admission tickets, etc. to address crowd size.
- The latest data shows that 60% of UNA's incoming students now are from six major Alabama feeder counties of Lauderdale, Madison, Jefferson, Colbert, Morgan, and Limestone (in that order). Growing populations in the Huntsville and Birmingham areas are having positive impacts on enrollment.

Mr. Abroms expressed appreciation to senior administrators on their informative divisional annual reports. No specific questions were raised during the meeting concerning these reports.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Jordan reported on topics covered during this committee's meeting on June 6. The following items on today's agenda stemmed from those committee discussions:

A. Resolution Approving a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science, Health Administration Track

Following summary comments by Ms. Jordan and Dr. Alexander, Ms. Jordan advised that the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee recommended this resolution to the full Board for approval. Upon motion by Ms. Jordan and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. New Nurse Practitioner Tracks to Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program

Ms. Jordan and Dr. Alexander reviewed this information item that required no action by the Board.

C. Transition of Programs in Connie D. McKinney Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design

This restructuring is designed to enhance enrollment, provide opportunities for future growth, and strengthen the vitality of these programs so that more may possibly evolve into stand-alone degree offerings. This information item required no action by the Board.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee vice chair Maples reported on the various topics covered during this committee's meeting on June 6. The following items on today's agenda stemmed from those committee discussions:

A. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments

Investment reports as of April 30 were provided in the advance meeting materials, and Mr. Maples distributed the latest information now available as of May 31. He shared additional written comments from committee chair Trapp on how the investment portfolio with Gerber Taylor is performing well and continuing with a positive trend of returns. The institutional endowment currently stands at approximately \$36 million (\$28+ million in the Foundation, and over \$7 million in the University). This information item required no action by the Board.

B. "Build the Pride" Campaign Final Report

Dr. Shaw gave an overview presentation on the final tally for the University's giving campaign that had a sunset date of April 30, 2018, and that raised over \$36.7 million. The Advancement division has already raised \$928,475 during this first six weeks into a new campaign. This information item required no action by the Board.

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTER

Committee chair Pierce reported on various topics covered during this committee's meeting on June 1 (i.e., SOAR program, Athletics updates, continued work on diversity initiatives, and options for expanding student housing). The following action item on today's agenda stemmed from the committee's discussions:

Resolution Authorizing Removal of Restrictions of the \$1/Credit Hour Fee on the Student Recreation Fee

Mr. Pierce provided summary comments, and Mr. Holcombe followed with additional remarks on behalf of the student body in favor of this action. Mr. Pierce noted that while the Campus Life and Athletics Committee did not have a quorum in attendance at its meeting and could not take a formal vote, it was agreed by favorable consensus among those Committee members present that this resolution should be forwarded to the full Board for consideration. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Anderson, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Russell reported on the various topics covered during this committee's meeting on June 6. The following items on today's agenda stemmed from those committee discussions:

A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending March 31, 2018

Per Mr. Thornton, the University ended the last quarter in a very stable financial condition that is comparable to its position at the same time of the last fiscal year. Summer revenue looks promising, and the University's budget is still balanced. Quarterly financial statements were reviewed in more detail in last week's committee meeting, and there were no additional questions from Trustees. This item required no action by the Board.

B. Public Posting of Financial Disclosure Information

This information item was provided in the meeting materials as a part of each June agenda, and Mr. Thornton provided summary comments. It required no action by the Board.

C. Resolution Approving Proposed University Tuition and Fees for the 2018-2019 Academic Year

Dr. Alexander was asked to discuss the Finish in Four initiative that includes the new "banded tuition" model as an incentive to complete a degree within four years as a means to enhancing student success. The proposed tuition model is common at many other institutions, and basing UNA's rate for 12-18 credit hours on this year's 15-credit-hour tuition cost results in no tuition increase for 2018-2019. This is the first time in a decade that UNA has not been forced to raise per-credit-hour tuition rates. Mr. Abroms noted that more equitable state funding would assist UNA in keeping any tuition increases to a minimum in the future. Dr. Kitts added that as state officials consider a performance-based funding model for Alabama's higher education institutions, UNA's efforts in this regard to boost its four-year graduation rate will be of particular note. Mr. Russell and Mr. Pierce commented on savings that will accrue to student and families if more students make every effort to complete a degree within four years. Ms. Jordan asked if revenue would be lost from students who take 16, 17, or 18 credit hours while paying the flat rate for 15, but Mr. Thornton noted such would not be significant since there also will be students who continue to take 12-14 credit hours while paying the 15-hour rate.

With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee, Mr. Russell moved approval of the resolution, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Ouellette. Mr. Maples asked Mr. Holcombe for feedback on behalf of the student body. Mr. Holcombe advised that the SGA has not formally discussed or taken a position on this proposal. Ms. Whitaker pointed out that the message needs to be clear that the move to this new tuition model is driven by the desire to see more students graduate within four years and thereby reduce their college costs and student loan debt.

There being no further discussion, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Vacant Property Located in Lawrence County (Iron City) Tennessee

Mr. Thornton provided overview comments on the rationale for selling this property as a means to reduce liability associated with vacant land for which the University has no real use at this point. Further, there is no sovereign immunity for UNA in another state. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee, and upon motion by Mr. Russell and second by Mr. Anderson, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Resolution Authorizing Relocation/Restructuring of Campus Student Services within the Collier Library Complex

Mr. Thornton reviewed this resolution and noted that private donor gifts are expected to cover all costs associated with this project. The main goal is for Collier Library to be a facility dedicated to research, archives, and student success services. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee, and upon motion by Mr. Russell and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

F. Information Items:

(1) Risk Assessment/Internal Control Policy Annual Report –

Mr. Thornton gave a brief summary of this information item that produced no new issues of concern. The senior administration continues to monitor and address any areas of potential institutional risk.

(2) Facilities Updates:

- a. ESCO Project** – Per Mr. Thornton and Mr. Gautney, evaluation of the ESCO project continues, and they expect to have more information ready for sharing with the Board at its next meeting concerning specific plans to recommend for energy savings. Mr. Russell noted that this assessment fits within one of the Board-directed presidential goals for this year of a comprehensive review of all campus facilities.
- b. Nursing Building** – Five contractors are expected to submit bids on the June 26 bid opening date for this project. Prevailing market prices for construction materials will be the determining factor as to project cost.
- c. Campus Master Plan Update** – Consulting firms who specialize in master planning will be on campus for presentations on June 26 and 28. Trustees are invited to attend.
- d. Housing Plan** – Campus housing consultants are currently on site for their assessment and will submit recommendations in the near future.

- (3) **2016-2017 Financial Audit** – Representatives from the University’s external auditing firm attended the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee meeting on June 6 to summarize the fiscal year 2016-2017 audit report. There was only one minor finding related to a financial aid issue.
- (4) **Master Facilities Inventory** – Mr. Thornton advised that this inventory list shows the total insured value of all campus buildings to be approximately \$369 million. Current financial statements do not reflect fair market value of buildings in light of depreciation factors. Fair and equitable funding from the state would provide for additional resources to address a variety of deferred maintenance needs.

These information items required no action by the Board at this time.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Trustees Annual Reaffirmation of Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Duties

Following comments by Mr. Abrams, Board members collectively reaffirmed and acknowledged their fiduciary role with the University, with most Trustees who were present submitting a signed individual reaffirmation statement at the conclusion of the meeting. These signed statements (as well as those from other trustees as collected at a later date) will be held on file in the President’s Office as documentation in support of compliance with SACS accreditation standards.

B. Report from Committee to Nominate 2018-2020 President Pro Tempore and Vice President Pro Tempore of the UNA Board of Trustees

On behalf of the nominating committee consisting of Trustees Anderson, Howard, and Pierce, Mr. Pierce submitted the recommendation that Mr. Russell and Mr. Trapp serve as President and Vice President Pro Tempore of the Board, respectively, for the 2018-2020 term. There being no other nominations, the same were approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Abrams noted that the service terms of Trustees Anderson, Howard, and Russell are set to expire later this year on September 30. However, these Board members will continue to serve until replaced with new gubernatorial appointees who are confirmed by the Alabama Senate, and each of them is eligible for reappointment by Governor Ivey if they desire another term.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Howard, second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Approved September 19, 2018



President Pro Tempore



Secretary