

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA  
FLORENCE, ALABAMA  
9:00 a.m., Friday, June 5, 2020**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, June 5, 2020, in accordance with Section 6 of Act No. 773 of the 1967 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama (now more commonly identified as Section 16-51 of the *Code of Alabama*). The meeting was conducted by videoconference based on provisions in Section III of a March 18, 2020, proclamation by Governor Kay Ivey concerning the state public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A letter from three Trustees (dated May 15, 2020) 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 June 5. 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 15, 2020. On May 26, 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 9:06 a.m.

**I. INVOCATION**

Trustee Will Trapp 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 Todd Ouellette	Trustee Will Trapp
Trustee Wendell Gunn	Trustee Steve Pierce	Trustee Anne Whitaker
Trustee Libby Jordan	Trustee Simpson Russell	

Therefore, a quorum was present. Ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey was absent.

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

- Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- 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, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, 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
- Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the College of Business
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Director of University Communications and Marketing
- Mr. Tate Gooch, President of Student Government Association
- Dr. Matt Green, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Mr. John McGee, Director of Educational Technology Services
- Mr. Jim Page, New Member of UNA Board of Trustees as of October 1, 2020
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate & Online Education
- Dr. Vicki Pierce, Dean of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Mr. Jake Russell, Instructional Designer in Educational Technology Services
- Ms. Nancy Sanford, New Member of UNA Board of Trustees as of October 1, 2020
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Ms. Amy Thompson, President of Staff Senate
- Dr. Laura Williams, President of Faculty Senate
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs
- Mr. Michael Hebert, *TimesDaily* reporter

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

Mr. Russell submitted today's meeting agenda for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Ouellette, the agenda was approved unanimously as presented.

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

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

- A. Minutes of March 6, 2020, Quarterly Board Meeting
- B. Resolution of Commendation to Sam Mashburn, 2019-2020 Student Government Association President, University of North Alabama
- C. Resolution of Commendation to Lee Renfroe, 2019-2020 Faculty Senate President, University of North Alabama
- D. Resolution of Commendation to Amy Thompson, 2019-2020 Staff Senate President, University of North Alabama

Upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Abrams, 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 from a prepared text. Remarks included notes on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, summer and fall enrollment projections, and recent proactive steps to increase awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion on the UNA campus. Mr. Russell commended the work of the senior administration and the internal Coronavirus Advisory Team for its handling of the pandemic situation as it unfolded earlier this spring.

There were no questions raised with regard to the annual divisional reports.

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

Committee chair Trapp reviewed items on today's agenda that stemmed from this committee's meeting on June 4.

**A. Resolution Approving a Major in Data Analytics to Include a Change in the Name of the Department of Economics and Finance to the Department of Finance, Economics, and Data Analytics**

With the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Dr. Gunn, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

**B. Resolution Approving a Micro-Credential in the Area of Early Childhood Education**

With the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Mr. Ouellette, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

**C. Resolution Approving Graduate Micro-Credentials/Certificates in Leadership, Healthcare Management, Human Resource Management, Information Systems, Financial Analysis, Professional Selling, and Global Business**

With the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Ms. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Dr. Alexander noted that all seven of these programs have global resonance with significant demand and potential for enrollment growth. Dr. Carnes thanked the Board and the senior administration for a campus culture that moves expeditiously through the internal approval process so that these types of innovative programs can quickly be offered in the marketplace to meet demand.

**D. Action Items from Year 1 of 2019-2024 Strategic Plan**

Dr. Alexander gave an overview of accomplishments with regard to the strategic plan as part of the twice-yearly update shared with trustees. This matter required no action by the Board.

**E. Reorganization of Elementary Education and Secondary Education Departments into a Singular “Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership”**

Dr. Alexander reviewed this information item and advised that the streamlining of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in these academic departments results in cost savings. This matter required no action by the Board.

**F. Inaugural Online Education Report**

Dr. Alexander noted that the University has a strong team in place to ensure that the high quality of its remote instructional offerings positions UNA well for more growth in the online education market. This matter required no action by the Board.

**VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Committee chair Whitaker reported on topics covered during this committee’s June 4 meeting. The Advancement division continued to perform well during the pandemic and with only two-thirds of the year completed, has already achieved 113% of this year’s fundraising goal. Its geographical footprint of donors expanded from eight to 17 states on Athletics Giving Day last month.

One information item from the previous day’s committee discussions – **Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments** – was on the agenda for the full Board at today’s meeting. There were no questions, and the endowment report had been reviewed in the committee setting the previous day.

**VIII. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Committee chair Pierce reported on informational topics covered during this committee’s meeting on June 4. One information item on today’s agenda stemmed from discussions in the committee setting: **Update on Transition to NCAA Division I**. Mr. Linder described how UNA Athletics responded to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and noted that UNA has now completed Year 2 of its transition to Division I status. The Athletics Department feels confident that the NCAA will view its progress to date as satisfactory and allow UNA to proceed into Transition Year 3. Mr. Linder also reported on academic accomplishments of student-athletes (e.g., record high overall 3.29 GPA this spring, and a highly commendable score of 973 in the latest Academic Progress Rate calculations). This information item required no action by the Board.

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

Committee chair Ouellette reported on the various topics covered during this committee's meeting on June 4 and that are on today's meeting agenda:

### **A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending March 31, 2020**

Quarterly financial reports were thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. Revenue and expenditures data are very comparable to that point in time the previous year. This quarterly report does not yet reflect summer term revenue. The University is weathering the pandemic impact exceptionally well even as it continues to be underfunded by the State. This item required no action by the Board.

Mr. Thornton was asked to provide an update on the Harrison Hall construction project. Furniture is expected to arrive in early July, and plans appear on track to have the building ready for occupancy by the fall semester.

### **B. Resolution Approving Proposed University Tuition and Fees for the 2020-2021 Academic Year**

Mr. Ouellette gave an overview of this resolution and emphasized that tuition charges are being held flat for the coming year. Mr. Thornton noted that the fee for participating in a tuition payment plan has been reduced since that service now will be handled by the University rather than an external vendor. There being no questions, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

### **C. Resolution Approving Special Graduate Clinical Course Fees for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program**

Mr. Ouellette noted in his summary comments that this proposed fee is very different from the general \$30 per credit hour general fee and is designed to cover costs associated with this specific academic program. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Mr. Anderson, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

### **D. Resolution Authorizing the Replacement of the Harrison Fountain, Hardscape Plaza, and Associated Electrical and Plumbing System**

In a review of this resolution, Mr. Ouellette advised that no state funds will be used in association with the fountain replacement, as the cost thereof will be covered from property insurance, private donations, and the sale of mementos connected to the original structure. Mr. Thornton provided additional details as to the extent of this project. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Mr. Smith, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

## **E. Information Items**

- (1) **Public Posting of Financial Disclosure Information** – This information item is provided in the meeting materials as a part of each June agenda. It required no action by the Board.
- (2) **ESCO Project Update** – Per Mr. Thornton, this energy savings project is now 80% complete. With most University buildings closed and much of the workforce away from campus due to the pandemic, \$293,000 in utilities cost savings have accrued since April that can be applied to debt service on this project.
- (3) **Risk Assessment/Internal Control Policy Annual Report** – This information item is provided in connection with each June meeting and reveals no new issues of concern. The senior administration continues to monitor and address any areas of potential institutional risk. The recently created internal audit office will now be responsible for updating this report on an annual basis.

None of these information items required any action by the Board.

Additional updates from Mr. Thornton:

- Collier Library renovations to house the University Success Center should be completed this month.
- The up-to-date master facilities inventory assists with monitoring as to energy savings and efficiency.
- Most interior Norton Auditorium renovations are now complete, and the building is fully functional.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Resolution Adopting a University “Free Speech and Assembly Policy” and Directing Compliance with Act 2019-396 of the Alabama Legislature and Section 16-68 of the Code of Alabama**

Dr. Alexander explained that this resolution is designed to bring UNA into compliance with recently passed legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Mr. Maples, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

### **B. Trustees Annual Reaffirmation of Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Duties**

Mr. Russell noted that this matter returns to the attention of the Board each June and that all Board members are asked to submit signed individual reaffirmation statements to the President’s Office. The same will be held on file as documentation in support of compliance with SACS accreditation standards.

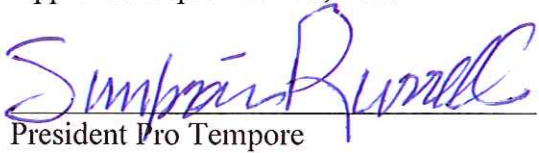
**C. Resolution Appointing Board of Trustees Officers for the Term of 2020-2022**

The nominating committee of Mr. Abrams, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Smith submitted its recommendation that Mr. Russell and Mr. Trapp be elected to another term to serve as the Board's President Pro Tempore and Vice President Pro Tempore, respectively. Upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Ms. Whitaker, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Approved September 18, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President Pro Tempore

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary