

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, March 5, 2021**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, March 5, 2021, 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 February 12, 2021) 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 March 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 Trustees from the Governor's office in advance of the meeting under the date of February 12, 2021. On February 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 9:00 a.m.

I. INVOCATION

Mr. Evan Thornton 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 Jim Page	Trustee Gary Smith
Trustee Joel Anderson II	Trustee Steve Pierce	Trustee Will Trapp
Trustee Wendell Gunn	Trustee Simpson Russell	Trustee Anne Whitaker
Trustee Marcus Maples	Trustee Nancy Sanford	

Therefore, a quorum was present. Ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey was absent. Mr. Russell welcomed Joel Anderson II as a newly appointed member of the Board of Trustees.

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. Ron Patterson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Ms. Bliss Adkison, President of Staff Senate
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Joy Borah, Senior Vice Provost 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. Katie Kinney, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Mr. Mark Linder, Athletics Director
- Mr. John McGee, Director of Educational Technology Services
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate and 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. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Dr. Laura Williams, President of Faculty Senate
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs
- Mr. Bernie Delinski, *TimesDaily* reporter

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2020, QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Mr. Russell submitted the minutes from the previous quarterly meeting for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Ms. Sanford, the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

From a prepared text, Dr. Kitts gave a brief summary on the state of the University. His remarks included:

- In consultation with the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, plans are being made for a hopeful return to in-person Board meetings in June.
- While other institutions in Alabama and across the nation are struggling with enrollment, fundraising, and financial health due to the pandemic, UNA continues to celebrate record fall and spring enrollments, great success in fundraising initiatives, and financial stability that has resulted in no employee layoffs or furloughs.
- UNA's embracing of academic programs related to workforce development continues to show great promise for the state and local economy.

Comments also included an update on Project 208 efforts and on UNA's position in State education budget discussions during the current legislative session.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Trapp gave an overview of two information items on today's agenda:

- A. Center for Sports Analytics**
- B. Academic Department Name Change -- "Department of Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene" to the "Department of Chemistry and Occupational Health Science."**

There were no questions concerning these items, and neither required any action by the Board.

Mr. Trapp also mentioned other informational topics covered during this committee's March 4 meeting (e.g., enrollment projections and growth in online programs). Minutes from the committee meeting are on file in the President's Office and are available for review upon request.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Whitaker noted several topics covered during this committee's March 4 meeting, including:

- An update on the status of Advancement efforts and campaign fundraising, including:
 - Exceeding of this year's development goals
 - Attempts to increase the number of unique donors
 - Series of designated "Giving Days" throughout the year
- Plans for Homecoming Weekend March 11-14
- Success to date of the Legacy Initiative for Harrison Plaza fountain restoration
- Updates on town/gown community engagement and Project 208 efforts

Two information items were on the full Board agenda at today's meeting:

- A. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments**
- B. Annual Endowment Report for UNA Board of Trustees Scholarship Fund**

There were no questions, and both items had been reviewed in the committee setting the previous day. Minutes from the committee meeting are on file in the President's Office and are available for review upon request. Mr. Abrams encouraged all members of the Board to join him in making regular contributions to the Trustees Scholarship Fund.

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE, ATHLETICS, AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Pierce reported on the various informational pieces covered during this committee's meeting on March 4. Topics included:

- ASUN's required COVID testing protocols and associated costs to Athletics budget
- NCAA self-study required for Year 3 of transition to Division I
- ASUN expansion with addition of three new member institutions
- Update on diversity initiatives
- Work of COVID-19 Recovery Task Force and University Health Services staff to mitigate pandemic impact on campus
- COVID vaccination available for employees

Minutes from the committee meeting are on file in the President's Office and are available for review upon request.

The Committee had one action item to bring forward in today's meeting: **Resolution Approving Updated "Policy Against Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct."** Dr. Greenway shared background information on the fact that amendments to this previously approved policy are now warranted based on new federal mandates. With the recommendation of the Campus Life, Athletics, and Diversity Committee and upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Ms. Whitaker, the Board adopted the resolution by unanimous vote.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Abroms reported on topics covered during this committee's March 4 meeting that are on today's meeting agenda:

A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending December 31, 2020

Mr. Abroms pointed out that the University remains in good financial health overall, though auxiliary revenue is down due to the pandemic's impact on the number of students living on campus and purchasing meal plans. The federal CARES Act has provided some relief to assist with this budget shortfall. Also of note....If the University sees a favorable outcome in its FY 2021-2022 state appropriation during this spring's legislative process, strategic filling of some of the 70+ employee positions held vacant over the past year can then commence. This item required no action by the Board.

B. Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Bids and Expenditure of Funds for Phase III Culinary Arts Program Renovations at the University of North Alabama's Connie D. McKinney Center

Mr. Abrams provided summary comments and submitted this resolution with the Committee's recommendation. Upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Ms. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Abrams also expressed thanks to the McKinney family for its continued financial support of UNA.

C. Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Bids and Expenditure of Funds for Renovations to University-Owned Property Located at 541 W. College Street

Mr. Abrams provided summary comments and submitted this resolution with the Committee's recommendation. Upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Thornton was asked to comment on the status of current physician office leases in this UNA-owned property.

D. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Real Property Located at 529 Oakview Circle

Mr. Abrams provided summary comments and submitted this resolution with the Committee's recommendation. Upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Ms. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Later in the meeting, upon question by Mr. Page, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Abrams provided information about the extent of property owned by the University that is contiguous to the main campus footprint. Certain strategic purchases are desired from time to time due to UNA's landlocked status. However, the University will not pay a purchase price that exceeds the appraised fair market value, and nearby properties acquired are typically within the context of the Campus Master Plan.

E. Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Bids and Expenditure of Funds for Construction of a Math and Computer Science Building at the University of North Alabama

Mr. Abrams provided summary comments and submitted this resolution with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee. The facility is expected to be two-story, and final building plans are under development. Construction costs will be covered from external funding, with the bulk of financing from a one-time \$15 million state allocation. Local sources are expected to provide the remainder of funds necessary for this project. The new building will enhance UNA's economic and workforce development efforts and will assist in career preparedness for students in these majors. Upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Russell:

- Reminded the Board that the annual reaffirmation of fiduciary duties (per the Board Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy) will be an item on the next meeting agenda in June.
- Noted that with 2021 being an odd-numbered year, the elected terms of Board officers and the current Trustees committee assignments will continue in effect beyond the June meeting and into summer 2022.
- Encouraged all Trustees to make any contacts with persons of political influence who can assist with Project 208 efforts.

Dr. Kitts was asked to comment on plans for this year's Board retreat that is set for May 3. It is a SACSCOC expectation with regard to reaccreditation that a governing board conducts periodic introspection and self-evaluations.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Abroms, second by Dr. Gunn, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Approved June 11, 2021



President Pro Tempore



Secretary