

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
MONTICELLO, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m. Friday, September 18, 2020**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama in accordance with Section 6 of Act No. 773 of the 1979 Alabama (now more commonly identified as Section 16-1-1) meeting was conducted by videoconference based on a 2020, proclamation by Governor Kay Ivey concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. A letter from three Trustees emailed to Governor Kay Ivey in care of the Executive Director of the Governor call the quarterly meeting on September 18. Meeting also were sent for the Governor's signature and mailed to the Trustees from the Governor's office in a letter on August 31, 2020. On September 9, the Board members voted on proposed resolutions, and supporting documents for individual electronic access in the Canvas software system.

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on Friday, September 18, 2020, Session of the Legislature of Alabama (Code of Alabama). The Board of Trustees met in accordance with Section III of a March 18, 2020, public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Act No. 2020-001, effective August 23, 2020) was sent via email to the Board of Trustees, requesting that the Board meet on September 18, 2020. Letters calling the Board to the meeting were sent via email to the Board of Trustees, and the same were sent to the Board of Trustees under the date of the meeting via email that the agenda, minutes, and supporting documents were available for review.

Board President Pro Tempore Simpson Russell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

I. INVOCATION

Evan Thornton offered the opening invocation.

II. ROLL CALL

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

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| Trustee Marty Abrams | Trustee Marcus M... | Trustee Gary Smith |
| Trustee Joel Anderson | Trustee Todd Ouel... | Trustee Will Trapp |
| Trustee Wendell Gunn | Trustee Steve Pier... | Trustee Anne Whitaker |
| Trustee Libby Jordan | Trustee Simpson R... | |

Therefore, a quorum was present. Executive Director 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 Development
- Mr. Mark Linder, Athletics Director
- Mr. Elon Patterson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Ms. Bliss Adkison, President of the Board of Trustees
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

- Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the College of Business
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Director of University Communications and Marketing
- Mr. Brian Ford, Instructional Designer in Educational Technology Services
- Mr. Michael Gautrey, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Mr. Tate Gooch, President of Student Government Association
- Dr. Katie Kinney, 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. Vicki Pierce, Dean of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- 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
- Mr. James Henderson with *The Conservative Alabamian* and WZDK 98.5 FM

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

After expressing thanks to Mr. Jordan and Mr. Ouellette for their service on the Board of Trustees as their appointed terms expire later this month, Mr. Russell submitted the following items for consideration for collective approval:

- Minutes of June 5, 2020, Quarterly Board Meeting
- Resolution Authorizing the President to Budget Additional Funds for FY 2020-2021
- Resolution of Commendation to Elizabeth "Tubby" W. Jordan, Member, Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama, 2008-2020
- Resolution of Commendation to Todd C. Ouellette, Member, Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama, 2005-2020

Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Ouellette the consent agenda items listed above were approved separately and severally by unanimous vote.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

From a prepared text, Dr. Kittling gave a brief summary of the state of the University. Remarks included notes on the reopening of campus for a new academic year in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted the continued momentum in enrollment growth as evidence of the resilient efforts of the entire campus community during this year of challenges.

I. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair, Dr. Alexander, commended the “shared success culture” embraced by University of North Alabama officials in celebrating campus-wide efforts with regard to enrollment and pandemic. Two information items on today’s agenda stemmed from the meeting on September 17.

A. Updates to University of North Alabama 2020-2021 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs

B. Reorganization of the Department of Psychology and the Department of Sociology and Family Studies into a Singular Department of Psychology and Sociology

There were no questions concerning these matters, and these items required action by the Board.

Dr. Alexander reported that the University is reaping dividends from its smart growth strategy as evidenced by an enrollment record this fall. By the October 30 census date, enrollment of approximately 8,600 is expected (an increase of 4% over last fall’s then-record enrollment of 8,300).

II. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair, Dr. Alexander, reported on topics covered during this committee’s September 17 meeting and commended the Advancement team on its successful fundraising efforts in spite of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. She encouraged Trustees to participate in the Leadership Initiative campaign aimed at raising private support for the Harrison Plaza foundation project.

The information from the previous day’s committee discussion on **University Endowments** – was on the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions, and the endowment report had been reviewed in the committee setting.

III. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair, Dr. Alexander, reported on the various informational topics covered during this committee’s meetings on September 10 and 17. One action item on today’s agenda stemmed from discussions of the committee setting: **Resolution Approving Amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama: Article IV-C Committees, Campuses, and University Life and Athletics Committee.** With the recommendation of the committee, the 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 Ouellette reported on topics covered during this committee's meeting September 17 and that are on today's meeting agenda:

Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending June 30, 2020

Quarterly financial reports were thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. Auxiliary revenue can be expected on the fourth quarter statement due to the COVID-19, the loss of significant summer revenue from fewer students living on campus, and the cancellation of the usual array of external groups' summer camps/conferences held on campus. This item required no action by the Board.

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Resolution Approving University of North Alabama Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budgets

Mr. Ouellette gave an overview of this resolution. With various economic unknowns during this time of pandemic, the budget process has presented an array of challenges. The proposed budget for next year reflects a \$3.9 million deficit, but the University Administration and the Committee are confident that can be minimized through reductions and leaving a number of personnel positions unfilled. Adequate reserves are in place should they be needed to balance the budget. COVID-related restrictions have resulted in approximately 300 fewer international students living on campus this year, thereby affecting auxiliary revenue. A deficit highlights the University of North Alabama's funding needs are real, and Project 208 efforts remain critically important.

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There being no questions, 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.

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Resolution Authorizing the University to Move Forward with Action Necessary to Obtain Bids for a Renovation of LaGrange Hall and to Allocate Funds for this Purpose within Defined Parameters

Mr. Ouellette summarized the resolution and noted that renovation of this building is a component of the campus master plan. Mr. Abrams reminded the Board that a portion of funding from a state bond issue provides finances for this renovation. He expressed thanks to legislative leaders for recognizing the need for assistance with large capital projects. 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.

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D. Resolution Authorizing the University to Move Forward with Obtaining Competitive Bids on the Restoration of Roger Hall at the University of North Alabama

Mr. Ouellette reviewed this resolution, and Mr. Thornton reported that while components of this restoration process can begin, the University will need to acquire additional funding to fully complete the 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. Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Bids and Expenditure of Funds for Renovations to University-Owned Property Located at 541 W. College Street

Mr. Ouellette gave an overview of this resolution, and it was noted that the University understood certain renovations would be necessary when the property was acquired. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Dr. Gunn, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

F. Deferred Maintenance Budget for FY 2020-2021

Mr. Ouellette reported in his summary comments that an appropriate level of state funding would greatly assist the University in addressing more items on this list of deferred maintenance needs. This information item required no action by the Board.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Trustee Appointment to UNA Foundation Board of Directors

Mr. Russell reported that Mr. Eage, who will join the Board of Trustees on October 1 and who is a member of the UNA Foundation Board of Directors, will serve as the Board of Trustees representative on the Foundation Board for the month of October 2020 to September 2021. Mr. Russell thanked Mr. Trapp for his service as Trustees representative in this regard over the past four years.

B. Report from Ad Hoc Presidential Evaluation Committee – and Resolution Approving Revised Terms to President – and – Employment

Committee chair Mr. Abrams reported on the outcome of Dr. Abrams' annual evaluation that resulted in a very favorable satisfaction rating. Mr. Abrams reviewed the Committee's recommendation for the coming year. He noted that the resolution also calls for a compensation study to ensure that UNA is comparable with peer institutions in the salary package of the chief executive officer. With the recommendation of the Presidential Evaluation Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Mr. Maples, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

