

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA  
FLORENCE, ALABAMA  
11:00 a.m., Monday, June 8, 2015**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Monday, June 8, 2015, in the Loft 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 18, 2015) was sent to Governor Robert Bentley in care of his Director of Constituent Affairs, requesting that the Governor call the June 8 annual meeting. 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 26, 2015.

On June 1, 2015, Board members were sent a notebook containing the agenda, proposed resolutions, and supporting documents for all items of discussion.

In the absence of Governor Robert Bentley (the President of the Board), the meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Board President Pro Tempore Marty Abroms.

**I. INVOCATION**

The opening invocation was offered by Athletics Director Mark Linder.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by President Kenneth D. Kitts, and the following members were present:

Trustee Marty Abroms	Trustee Rodney Howard	Trustee Steve Pierce
Trustee Joel Anderson	Trustee Libby Jordan	Trustee Simpson Russell
Trustee Lisa Ceci	Trustee Marcus Maples	Trustee Will Trapp

Absent were ex officio members Governor Robert Bentley and State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice.

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

- Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Mr. Clinton Carter, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. Dan Hendricks, Vice President for University Advancement
- Mr. David Shields, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. John Thornell, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Melvin Davis, Dean of Library and Educational Technology Services
- Dr. Donna Lefort, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Vicki Pierce, Dean of the College of Nursing
- Dr. Paulette Alexander, Associate Dean of the College of Business
- Ms. Haley Brink, Director of Annual Giving

- Ms. Aleah Clark, Bursar
- Ms. Cindy Conlon, Assistant Vice President for Business Services
- Ms. Janyce Fadden, Executive-in-Residence in the College of Business
- Dr. Sarah Franklin, President of Faculty Senate
- Ms. Deborah Hensley, Director of Donor Relations and Prospect Management
- Mr. Bob Hill, Board of Trustees legal counsel
- Mr. Christopher James, Director of Kilby Laboratory School
- Mr. Nick Lang, President of Student Government Association and *ex officio* non-voting member of the Board
- Dr. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair of the Shared Governance Executive Committee
- Mr. Mark Linder, Athletics Director
- Ms. Megan Lovelace, Athletics Development Officer
- Dr. Andrew Luna, Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment
- Ms. Kim Mauldin, Director of Admissions
- Dr. Chris Maynard, Associate Dean of College of Arts and Sciences
- Ms. Audrey Mitchell, Director of Environmental Services and Housing Facilities Mgmt.
- Mr. Bryan Rachal, Director of University Communications and Marketing
- Ms. Celia Reynolds, Assistant to VPAA for SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation
- Dr. Beth Sewell, Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Assistant to the President for Administration
- Ms. Melissa Thornton, Assessment Coordinator in Inst. Research, Planning, and Assessment
- Ms. Donna Tipps, Controller
- Dr. Molly Vaughn, Vice President of Staff Senate
- Mr. Jimmy Waddell, President of Staff Senate
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs
- Members of the news media:     Jennifer Edwards from the *TimesDaily*  
   Anna Grace Usery from the *Flor-Ala*  
   Carter Watkins from WHNT-TV 19  
   Marie Waxel from WAFF-TV 48

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Abroms submitted the meeting agenda for approval. Upon motion by Ms. Jordan and second by Mr. Anderson, the agenda was approved unanimously.

### IV. PRESENTATION ON UNA'S EXERCISE SCIENCE PROGRAM

In an effort to spotlight innovative programs and to familiarize Trustees with different units of the University, Dr. Thornell introduced Dr. Lefort, who then introduced HPER professor Eric O'Neal for a brief presentation on the Exercise Science program. In addition to his presentation, Dr. O'Neal also distributed a listing of 31 scholarly publications and manuscripts in preparation for submission, 44 conference presentations, and 8 external funding grants in which Exercise Science students have been involved since 2010. The program has seen phenomenal growth over the past four years.

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2015 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Abroms submitted the minutes for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Russell, the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **VI. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS AND REMARKS FROM CONSTITUENCY GROUPS**

Complete written reports were found under Section VI, Items A-G. Dr. Kitts, Dr. Calhoun, Mr. Carter, Dr. Hendricks, Mr. Shields, Dr. Thornell, and Mr. Linder gave brief additional comments with focus on:

- The need for enhanced relations with State officials and a greater presence in Montgomery in efforts to see equity in per-student funding.
- The anticipation of a higher number of new students this fall as fruit of heightened recruiting efforts, but also the expectation of overall flat headcount for the next year or two given the current and expected near-future trend of larger graduating classes.
- Enrollment Management's focus on student success initiatives as key to retention and on bolstered marketing efforts and revamped scholarships strategies as key to recruitment.
- Continued unqualified audit opinions, recent hiring of an in-house campus attorney, and efforts to review vendor contracts and business processes for better efficiency and reduction of expenses.
- Creative means of the College of Business to expand enrollment, develop new curricular concentrations, and enhance connections with the local business community.
- Efforts to increase alumni participation in fundraising and other support activities and continued work on the capital campaign's quiet phase
- Highlights of the work by Career Planning and Development to assist students in selecting a major and securing employment upon graduation.
- Achievement of an overall 3.01 GPA by student-athletes this spring and a \$150,000 gift secured to assist with academic support in the Athletics Department.

Mr. Abroms then called on Dr. Franklin, Mr. Lang, and Mr. Waddell for brief remarks on behalf of their respective groups.

## VII. AUDIT, FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MATTERS

- A. Review Financial Information for Quarter Ending March 31, 2015
- B. Public Posting of Financial Disclosure Information
- C. Review of Investments – UNA Foundation
- D. Review of Investments – University Endowment
- E. Impact of Special Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program
- F. Draft/Preliminary 2015-2016 Budget

All of these items were thoroughly discussed during the work session that preceded the Board meeting. There were no additional questions, and these items required no action by the Board.

### G. Resolution Approving Proposed University Tuition and Fees for the 2015-2016 Academic Year

Audit, Finance, and Administration Committee Chair Russell reported the Committee's unanimous recommendation of approval of this resolution that was thoroughly discussed during the work session that preceded the formal Board meeting. Mr. Russell then made a motion for approval. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The floor opened for discussion.

Corrections to the proposed tuition and fees package were noted during the work session discussion:

- Item 22 on Fees List: Add the Student Activity Fee as a sixth fee that is not charged to certain groups of enrolled students.
- Item 4 on Fees List: Revise the item title to be "Online EMBA Program" to clarify that this fee is strictly for that MBA program in which all of its courses are taught online.

Mr. Abrams emphasized his continued challenge to the University administration to work to keep tuition increases as low as possible and no higher than the annual rate of inflation. He expressed appreciation for their work in this regard and noted that this year's proposal for a 4.1% increase is the lowest request for a tuition hike since 2008. Mr. Pierce reminded the Board that double-digit tuition increases have been proposed and acted upon in years past, and the fact that this year's request is only for 4.1% increase demonstrates that the administration indeed is working to reduce expenses. The Board understands that flat or declining enrollment leads to budget pressure and that the significant reduction in state funding over time compounds budget issues. There being no further discussion, the motion to approve the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

### H. Resolution Approving Incremental Cost Increase for Early College Courses

No separate resolution concerning this flat tuition increase proposal was necessary, as it was included within the overall tuition and fees package reviewed in the previous discussion of agenda item VII-G.

**I. Resolution Authorizing Bidding Process and the Expenditure of Funds for Renovations to the Guillot University Center**

Following brief comments by Mr. Carter, Mr. Abrams noted that this resolution was discussed during the work session that preceded the formal Board meeting and now is recommended for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Russell and second by Ms. Ceci, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**J. Risk Assessment / Internal Control Policy Annual Report**

This item was reviewed during the work session that preceded the Board meeting. There were no additional questions, and this item required no action by the Board.

**K. 2015-2016 Athletic Ticket Prices**

This item was provided for information only and required no action by the Board.

**VIII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE MATTERS**

**A. Organizational Changes in College of Arts and Sciences**

**B. Update on Campus Student Housing as New Freshman Residence Requirement is Implemented This Fall**

Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee Chair Jordan reported that these information-only items were discussed during the work session that preceded the formal Board meeting. Upon question from Mr. Anderson concerning the long-term plan for older residence halls, Mr. Shields noted that discussions are ongoing on how to re-purpose these facilities. Various financial factors come into play when deciding upon renovation/remodeling versus demolition. Mr. Anderson suggested that a work group should be tasked with studying a long-term facilities management plan in relation to these buildings and to Floyd Science Building now that the science programs have been relocated to the new science and technology building.

**IX. HONORARY DEGREES AND BUILDING NAMES COMMITTEE MATTER**

**Resolution Approving Honorary Doctoral Degrees for Donald C. Harrison, M.D. and Laura M. Harrison**

Honorary Degrees and Building Names Committee Chair Jordan reported that this item recently was considered by the Committee and is now recommended to the full Board for adoption. Upon motion by Ms. Jordan and second by Mr. Trapp, the resolution was approved unanimously.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Following comments by Mr. Abrams, upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Ms. Jordan, the Board unanimously and collectively reaffirmed and acknowledged their fiduciary role with the University. Each Trustee then signed the reaffirmation statement that will be held on file in the President's Office.

### **B. Legislative Update**

The Alabama Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 291 (now enrolled as Act No. 2015-210) that amends state statute relating to UNA Board operations in three areas:

1. Reduces trustee appointment terms from 12 years to 6 years;
2. Permits emergency meetings of the Board; and
3. Allows for a trustee's participation via electronic communication mechanisms to constitute presence in person at a Board meeting.

Dr. Kitts noted that Board bylaws now need to be revised in correlation to these statutory amendments, and the same will be brought the Trustees for approval at their next quarterly meeting in September. Mr. Abrams added that the Governor will need to issue notices concerning redesign of trustee service terms as described in this legislation.

### **C. Resolution in Support of the City of Florence's Bicentennial Celebration in 2018**

Following comments by Dr. Kitts, upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Russell, the resolution was approved unanimously.

### **D. Resolution of Commendation to KeKoria Greer, 2014-2015 Student Government Association President, University of North Alabama**

Following comments by Dr. Kitts, upon motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Ms. Ceci, the resolution was approved unanimously.

### **E. Resolution of Commendation to Scott Infanger, 2014-2015 Faculty Senate President, University of North Alabama**

Following comments by Dr. Kitts, upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Ms. Jordan, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**F. Resolution of Commendation to Jimmy Waddell, 2014-2015 Staff Senate President, University of North Alabama**

Following comments by Dr. Kitts, upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Ms. Ceci, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**G. Resolution of Commendation to John G. Thornell for His Service as Interim President of the University of North Alabama**

Following comments by Mr. Abrams, upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Mr. Trapp, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no items to discuss in executive session.

**XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Ms. Jordan, second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved September 10, 2015



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President Pro Tempore



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Secretary