

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, March 6, 2020**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, March 6, 2020, 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 February 14, 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 March 6. 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 from the Governor's office to Trustees in advance of the meeting under the date of February 18, 2020. On February 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 9:03 a.m.

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 in attendance:

Trustee Marty Abrams	Trustee Todd Ouellette	Trustee Gary Smith
Trustee Wendell Gunn	Trustee Steve Pierce	Trustee Will Trapp
Trustee Libby Jordan	Trustee Simpson Russell	Trustee Anne Whitaker
Trustee Marcus Maples		

Therefore, a quorum was present. Absent were ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey and Trustee Joel Anderson.

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

- Dr. Ross Alexander, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- 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, Chief Enrollment Officer and Assistant to the President for Diversity
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Ms. Olivia Bradford, Assistant to the President for Scheduling and Events
- Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the College of Business

- Mr. Jason Cochran, Exec. Director of Governmental Relations and Economic Development
- Ms. Cindy Conlon, Associate Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Interim Associate Director of Univ. Communications and Marketing
- Mr. Michael Gautney, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Dr. Felecia Harris, 2019-2020 Chair of Shared Governance Executive Committee
- Dr. Kevin Jacques, Director of University Center Operations and Events Management
- Ms. Leah Johnson, University Videographer/Photographer
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Mr. Sam Mashburn, President of Student Government Association
- Dr. Vicki Pierce, Dean of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Dr. Lee Renfroe, President of Faculty Senate
- Mr. Jake Russell, Instructional Designer for Education Technology Services
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Ms. Amy Thompson, President of Staff Senate
- Mr. Linden White, Vice President of SGA University Program Council
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Russell submitted the agenda for consideration. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Ms. Whitaker, the agenda was approved as presented by unanimous vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

With only one consent agenda item for this meeting, Mr. Russell submitted the minutes of the December 6, 2019, quarterly Board meeting for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Mr. Smith, the consent agenda item was approved by unanimous vote.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Kitts gave a brief summary on the state of the University from a prepared text. Topics included:

- An update on spring enrollment and the outlook for fall;
- Project 208 efforts and UNA's budget appropriation position for FY 2020-2021;
- The new Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Plan presented at today's meeting;
- Work of the Town/Gown Committee; and
- Recent UNA athletics highlights.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Trapp reminded the Board of themes outlined in the University's strategic plan that have a direct correlation with development of new and innovative academic programs. Following a personal story about his experience while traveling to China as a college student, Mr. Trapp asked Dr. Alexander to review items on today's agenda that stemmed from this committee's meeting on March 5.

A. Resolution Approving the Guizhou University-University of North Alabama International College of Engineering and Technology

Following summary comments by Dr. Alexander, several Trustees made remarks applauding this new collaboration. Dr. Alexander answered various questions related to enrollment expectations and the impact on UNA revenue. With the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Ms. Jordan, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Resolution Approving a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Cinematic Arts and Theatre

Following summary comments by Dr. Alexander, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Smith and second by Dr. Gunn, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTER

Committee chair Whitaker reported on topics covered in this committee's March 5 meeting.

A. Resolution Approving Revised Policy for Naming Opportunities Associated with Private Donor Gifts to the University

Following summary comments by Ms. Whitaker, with the recommendation of the Advancement and University Relations Committee and upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Trapp, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments

C. Annual Endowment Report for UNA Board of Trustees Scholarship Fund

These two information items were not addressed during the full Board meeting, but had been reviewed in the committee setting the previous day.

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Pierce reported on the array of topics covered during this committee's March 5 meeting, and he asked Mr. Mashburn to share with the Board brief remarks related to current SGA initiatives, particularly with regard to Project 208.

One action item from the previous day's committee discussions – **Resolution Approving the University of North Alabama's "Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Plan: 2020-2025"** – was on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting. Mr. Pierce commended the work of the task force that developed the document and asked Mr. Patterson to provide summary comments. With the recommendation of the Campus Life and Athletics Committee, Mr. Pierce moved approval of the resolution, and Mr. Maples seconded the motion. Mr. Maples congratulated Mr. Patterson and the task force on a job well done and remarked that UNA should be proud of this document and of its position as a leader committed to diversity and inclusion. There being no further discussion, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Russell pointed out that the University has three excellent documents – the Strategic Plan, the Campus Master Plan, and the Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Plan – to guide its institutional mission.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Ouellette reported on the various topics covered during this committee's meeting on March 5 and that are on today's meeting agenda:

A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending December 31, 2019

Mr. Thornton gave brief summary comments, noting that revenue and expenditures at the end of the first quarter of FY 2019-2020 are in line with expectations. The quarterly financial report was thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

B. Resolution Approving a University of North Alabama Special Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program

In a summary of the resolution, Mr. Ouellette noted that the proposed retirement incentive program appears financially sound when considering the return on investment. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Ms. Jordan, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Approving Rental Rates in University-Owned Housing Facilities Effective Fall 2020

Mr. Ouellette reviewed the resolution, noting that the modest overall 1.75% increase in rental rates is less than the current Consumer Price Index, and UNA still will have the lowest student housing costs among its peer institutions. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Ouellette and second by Mr. Abrams, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Resolution Approving Student Meal Plan Prices Effective Fall 2020

Mr. Ouellette reviewed the resolution, noting that price increases are allowed per the University's contract with Chartwells, and the net overall price adjustment this year of 2% is less than the contract allows and is lower than the current Consumer Price Index. 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.

E. 2018-2019 Audit

The audit report was thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. Per Mr. Thornton, there were no adverse findings, and the University remains in solid financial health.

Mr. Thornton was asked for updates on additional information items:

1. **Harrison Plaza Fountain:** The University continues to wait on a final loss determination from the property insurance provider, but replacement options are being explored with plans to move forward quickly in restoring this signature piece of the campus landscape.
2. **Harrison Hall:** 120+ rain delay days have slowed construction, but the goal is to complete the project over the summer and open doors for classes this fall.
3. **ESCO Project:** Various roof repairs also have been delayed due to rain, but the contractor continues work on various other components of the energy savings program. The estimated completion date is October 2020.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Nominate 2020-2022 President Pro Tempore and Vice President Pro Tempore of the UNA Board of Trustees

Mr. Russell named Mr. Abroms, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Smith to serve as a three-member committee to bring forward at the June meeting nominations for the Board officer positions of 2020-2022 president and vice president pro tempore.

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Russell noted that an executive session was needed to discuss matters from two Board committees. As an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama, Ms. Fite-Morgan could affirm that the Board's discussion of these matters in executive session was authorized under Section 3 of the Code of Alabama that allows for executive session to discuss the general reputation and character of individuals. Therefore, an executive session would be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Upon motion by Mr. Maples, second by Mr. Abroms, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m. for a short break and to enter into executive session.

At approximately 10:23, the Board entered into executive session. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Dr. Alexander, Mr. Haslam, and Mr. Patterson remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and the Board for the discussion of matters during this closed session.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 10:55 a.m. Mr. Russell reported that the Board now had three action items to address that were presented in executive session and viewed favorably by the Board:

1. **Resolution Approving Honorary Doctoral Degree for Ernestine B. Davis:** Upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Mr. Ouellette, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.
2. **Resolution Authorizing Naming of the University of North Alabama's Honors College as the "Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College":** Upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Trapp, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.
3. **Resolution Authorizing Naming of the University's Culinary Arts Academic Program in Memory of Alumnus Jeff Eubanks:** Upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Abrams, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

The Board had no other action items to present from its discussions in executive session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Maples, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Approved June 5, 2020



President Pro Tempore



Secretary