

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, December 10, 2021**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, December 10, 2021, 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 Alabama Legislature. A letter from three Trustees (dated November 17, 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 December 10. 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 November 24, 2021. On November 30, 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

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 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.

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

- Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Mr. Jason Cochran, Exec. Director of Governmental Relations and Economic Development
- Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan, General Counsel
- Dr. Kimberly Greenway, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement
- Dr. Josh Looney, Athletics Director
- Mr. Ron Patterson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Mr. Duell Aldridge, Coordinator for University Center Operations and Event Management
- Ms. Jen Awwad, Instructional Designer in Educational Technology Services
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
- Dr. Joy Borah, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Cole Honors College
- Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the College of Business and Technology
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Director of University Media and Public Relations
- Dr. Andrea Hunt, 2021-2022 Chair of Shared Governance Executive Committee
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Tera Kirkman, Associate Dean of Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Dean of Graduate & Online Education, and Board of Trustees Parliamentarian
- Mr. Kris Robertson, Lead Network/Instructional Technology Specialist
- Mr. Jake Russell, Instructional Designer in Educational Technology Services
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Mr. Michael Smith, 2021-2022 President of Staff Senate
- Ms. Kayla Walton, 2021-2022 Student Government Association Vice President
- Dr. Jason Watson, 2021-2022 President of Faculty Senate
- Mr. Brian Wilcox, Executive Director of Facilities Administration and Planning
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs

Also present: *TimesDaily* reporter Kevin Taylor.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2021, QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Mr. Russell submitted the minutes from the previous quarterly meeting for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Smith and second by Ms. Whitaker, the minutes were approved as presented 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:

- Enrollment successes and outlook for spring semester;
- Contacts with state officials and lawmakers concerning Project 208 efforts and the push for funding equity;
- Increases in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education majors at UNA, as well as substantial growth in online programs as signals of success in workforce development initiatives; and
- This weekend's fall commencement ceremonies in which ≈850 students will graduate.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Trapp presented items from this committee's December 9 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Resolution Approving a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Degree Program

Following summary comments by Mr. Trapp, 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.

B. Resolution Approving a Doctor of Nursing Practice Program to include Tracks in Advanced Practice, Educational Leadership and Simulation, and Population Health Leadership and Simulation

Following summary comments by Mr. Trapp, 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.

C. Resolution Approving Associate of Science Degrees in Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Events Management, and Mechatronics

Following summary comments by Mr. Trapp, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Resolution Approving Revised Admissions Requirements

Following summary comments by Mr. Trapp, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Trapp and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Accomplishments with Regard to 2019-2024 Strategic Plan

Dr. Alexander gave an overview of signal accomplishments with regard to the strategic plan as part of the twice-yearly update shared with trustees. Of particular note are productive diversity initiatives and significant academic program expansion. Mr. Russell commended Dr. Alexander and the University's senior leadership for their foresight in development of online programs. Mr. Abroms pointed out that these accomplishments have continued while tuition charges have been held level the past three years. This information item required no action by the Board.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Whitaker highlighted topics covered in this committee's December 9 meeting, including:

- Size of the total endowment (now >\$50 million);
- This year's development goal of \$6 million in total giving;
- Change in administrative fee for endowed and current use funds;
- Sizeable endowment gifts from Bank Independent and Lyons HR, LLC; and
- Effects of state redistricting that place UNA in the representation areas of State Sen. Tim Melson and U.S. Congressman Robert Aderholt.

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, ATHLETICS, AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Pierce reported on the array of topics covered during this committee's December 9 meeting. These included:

- Various diversity initiatives/accomplishments and a demographic report that indicates UNA has a very diverse student body;
- Athletics: personnel changes, capital projects, large gift from Lions Athletics Club, and student-athletes and coaches community engagement project this fall;
- COVID-19 update and continued efforts to mitigate its impact on campus; and
- Grants received for student pantry to assist those with food insecurity.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Abrams presented items from this committee's December 9 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Review of Financial Information for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021

The University is in a solid financial position in spite of inequitable state funding. Though the FY 2020-2021 budget included a sizeable deficit, the year ended with a ≈\$500,000 surplus thanks to additional state funding and institutional expense controls. 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. Budgeting of Additional Funds Received During the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

Mr. Abroms briefly reviewed this information item that required no action by the Board. There were no questions concerning the report.

C. Resolution Authorizing the University to Purchase Commercial Property Located at 416 N. Seminary Street

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Ms. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. It was noted that the lease revenue will cover operating expenses, and the University should be able to recoup the purchase price in 15 years or less.

D. Resolution Approving a Tuition Increase for the Online MBA and MAcc Programs at the University to Assist with Growth and Expansion of Academic Programs in the Regional Service Area

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Ms. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Resolution Approving a Five (5) Year Agreement between the University of North Alabama and Elsevier B.V.

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

F. Resolution Approving a Seven (7) Year Agreement between the University of North Alabama and Apogee, Inc.

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms and additional comments by Mr. Thornton, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

G. Resolution Approving Agreement between the University of North Alabama and Collegis Education for the College of Business and Technology

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Ms. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

H. Resolution Authorizing Renovation of the Football Locker Room

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. It was noted that the total cost of this project should be covered through fundraising efforts.

I. Resolution Authorizing Construction of an Indoor Softball Hitting Facility

Following summary comments by Mr. Abroms, with the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

X. OTHER BUSINESS: Board Self-Evaluation Survey for SACSCOC Compliance

As noted in previous settings, a new SACSCOC accreditation standard centers on the institutional governing board having a mechanism in place for self-evaluation of its responsibilities and expectations. The University has now crafted an evaluation instrument, and that survey will be administered next spring to coincide with the Board's annual retreat. This new self-evaluation process is scheduled to reoccur on a regular basis. This information item required no action by the Board.

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items for discussion in executive session at this meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

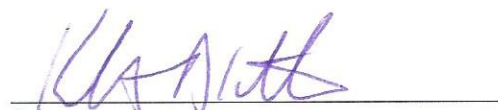
Mr. Page commended University officials on external marketing initiatives that greatly enhance Project 208 efforts. It was noted that a recent report from the College of Business and Technology that was shared with Trustees at this meeting had been printed in entirety in the latest *Business Alabama* magazine. These marketing pieces bring much favorable attention to the University and are not unnoticed by lawmakers and business leaders across the state.

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Page, second by Mr. Smith, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Approved March 4, 2022



President Pro Tempore



Secretary