

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, December 2, 2022**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, December 2, 2022, 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 11, 2022) 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 2. 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 16, 2022. On November 22, 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 Will Trapp called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

I. INVOCATION

Mr. 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
- Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement
- Dr. Josh Looney, Athletics Director
- Dr. Ron Patterson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. K.C. White, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
- Ms. Melissa Bolton, 2022-2023 Staff Senate President
- 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. Cindy Conlon, Interim Director of Facilities Administration and Planning
- Ms. Minnette Ellis, Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Director of University Media and Public Relations
- Mr. Brian Ford, Senior Instructional Designer in Educational Technology Services
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Tera Kirkman, Interim Dean of Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Mr. John McGee, Executive Director of Educational Technology Services
- Dr. Kristy Oden, 2022-2023 Chair of Shared Governance Executive Committee
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Dean of Graduate & Online Education, and Board of Trustees Parliamentarian
- Ms. Amber Sandvig, 2022-2023 Student Government Association President
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Dr. Jessica Stovall, 2022-2023 Faculty Senate President
- Ms. Julie Taylor, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs

Also present: *TimesDaily* reporter Bernie Delinski

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2022, QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Mr. Trapp submitted the minutes from the previous quarterly meeting for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Pierce, 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:

- Concluding days of fall semester with final exams underway
- Efficiency of Board committee structure
- Talks with City officials concerning pedestrian safety issues along Pine Street
- Contacts with state officials and lawmakers concerning Project 208 efforts and the push for funding equity
- Efforts to include a cost-of-living salary adjustment for employees in next year's budget
- Appreciation to trustees for their volunteer service to the University

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Page presented items from this committee's December 1 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

- A. New Certificate Programs**
 - 1. Graduate Certificate in Manufacturing Engineering**
 - 2. Certificate in Sustainable Trails and Waterways Development**

Mr. Page described that these certificate programs are workforce focused and in response to market demand. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

- B. Creation of North Alabama Public Service Training Center**

Mr. Page briefly reviewed the focus of this new center that will serve in support of specific academic programs and as a means to collaborate with local, regional, and statewide public service agencies. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

- C. Creation of Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Studies**

Dr. Alexander described how this new center will provide the infrastructure and will coordinate in a more intentional manner the cohesive relationship between The Generator and the Anderson BBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship degree program. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

- D. Resolution Authorizing Naming of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Studies in Honor of Joel R. Anderson**

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

Before proceeding with the next item on the agenda, Mr. Page shared some enrollment highlights provided to the Committee during its meeting the preceding afternoon. Of note:

- 14th straight term of record enrollment this fall;
- Review of detailed data reports concerning 2022 undergraduate and graduate enrollment, credit hour production, and degree completion by major that categorize academic programs as stable, growing, or declining
- "Finish in Four" and banded tuition leading to record 4-year and 6-year graduation rates
- Several new degree programs set to launch in spring semester

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. Progress on the current strategic plan is now 80% complete, and calendar year 2023 will include focus on development of a new five-year plan that should be ready for Board consideration next December. This information item required no action by the Board.

Mr. Trapp, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Abrams made comments complimenting senior officials for being strategic and intentional in development of new academic micro-credential, certificate, and degree programs to meet market demand.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Whitaker highlighted topics covered in this committee's December 1 meeting, including:

- Large attendance at this fall's homecoming celebration and at UNA's home football game against Jacksonville State University that was held at Toyota Field in Madison
- Continued progress on Legacy Initiative
- Status of Advancement's fundraising goals for this fiscal year

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.

Mr. Trapp thanked his fellow trustees for ensuring that 100% of the Board were donors to the University during fiscal year 2021-2022.

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE, ATHLETICS, AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Pierce reported on the array of topics covered during this committee's December 1 meeting. These included:

- Diversity of UNA student body (currently 47 states and 69 countries represented)
- Athletics facility renovations, fundraising successes, significant revenue from aforementioned JSU football game in Madison, and status of two head coaching searches
- Campus life initiatives aimed at health and well-being of students, discussions about pedestrian safety along Pine Street, and SGA efforts to boost student attendance at athletic events

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Abroms presented items from this committee's December 1 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, 2022

Though the FY 2021-2022 budget included a sizeable \$5 million deficit, reserves were available to absorb the impact. Other mitigation measures are in place to help relieve budget pressure this year. Receipt of the University's "fair share" of state funding is crucial to avoid deficit budgets. The year-end 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 2021-2022 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 Roof and Soffit Repairs at Rogers Hall

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.

D. Resolution Authorizing Design Contract of New Music Facility

Mr. Abroms reviewed the resolution and pointed out that this contract is to engage only for design work at this point so as to provide a better picture of anticipated construction costs for a new building once funding is available. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Mr. Smith, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Abroms advised of other topics covered during the Committee meeting, including:

- Status of contract with Collegis firm
- Lease arrangement with Embrace Alabama Kids for use of an off-campus, UNA-owned residential property to serve college-age students transitioning from foster care
- Options being explored to help finance conversion of the former Women's Center site into additional parking

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Trapp emphasized the need for more local community support for UNA's athletics program, both in terms of attendance and finances. He noted that the University adds much to the state and local economies but has limited resources.

With there having been talks for decades about a dedicated on-campus stadium, Mr. Smith advocated for a firm decision and announcement that UNA would pursue building its own athletics facility. He stressed that an announcement would spur excitement in the community, boost attendance at athletic events, and draw donors who are willing to assist with financing the project. Mr. Abrams agreed but pointed out that the University must be clear that any increase in state appropriations would not be directed to stadium construction.

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Trapp noted that an executive session was needed to discuss matters from a Board committee and to review the status of a legal issue. 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 and the legal ramifications of pending litigation. Therefore, an executive session would be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and she provided that opinion in writing to Mr. Trapp and Dr. Kitts prior to today's meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Russell, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m. for a short break and to enter into executive session. At approximately 10:27, the Board entered into executive session. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Dr. Alexander, Mr. Haslam, Dr. Looney, and Mr. Thornton remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and the Board during this closed session.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 11:45 a.m. Ms. Whitaker presented two action items from the Advancement and University Relations Committee that were considered in executive session and viewed favorably by the Board:

- 1. Resolution Authorizing Honorary Naming of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree Program for Florence Helen Nethery Duncan**

Upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

- 2. Resolution Authorizing Honorary Naming of the "CB&S Bank Arena" within Flowers Hall**

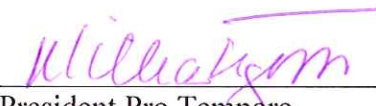
Upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Abrams, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

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. Abrams, second by Ms. Sanford, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Approved March 17, 2023



President Pro Tempore



Secretary