

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, June 9, 2023**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, June 9, 2023, 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 May 19, 2023) 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 June 9. 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 May 26, 2023. On May 31, 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 9:02 a.m.

I. INVOCATION

The opening invocation was offered by Mr. Trapp.

II. ROLL CALL

President Kenneth D. Kitts called the roll, and the following members were present in the meeting room:

Trustee Joel Anderson II	Trustee Steve Pierce	Trustee Will Trapp
Trustee Wendell Gunn	Trustee Simpson Russell	Trustee Anne Whitaker
Trustee Jim Page	Trustee Nancy Sanford	

Trustee Kyle Buchanan was present via videoconference. Ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey and Trustees Marty Abrams and Gary Smith were absent. A quorum of voting members was in attendance.

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

- Mr. Jason Cochran, Executive Director of Governmental Relations and Economic Development
- Ms. Minnette Ellis, Interim Chief Diversity Officer
- Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan, General Counsel
- Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement
- Dr. Josh Looney, Athletics Director
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. K.C. White, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Mr. Duell Aldridge, Coordinator of University Center Operations and Event Management
- Ms. Melissa Bolton, 2022-2023 Staff Senate President
- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Cole Honors College
- Ms. Sheena Burgreen, Executive Director of Health and Well-Being
- Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the Sanders College of Business and Technology
- Ms. Cindy Conlon, Associate Vice President for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Director of University Media and Public Relations
- Dr. Lauren Killen, 2023-2024 Faculty Senate President
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Tera Kirkman, 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, Deputy Provost and Board of Trustees Parliamentarian
- Ms. Amber Sandvig, 2023-2024 Student Government Association President
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Ms. Julie Taylor, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Dr. Ryan Zayac, Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

Also present: *TimesDaily* reporters Bernie Delinski, David Glovach, and Kevin Taylor
TimesDaily photographer Dan Busey
 WAAY-TV 31 reporter Shawn Bracey

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Trapp submitted the following items for consideration for collective approval:

- A. Minutes of March 17, 2023, Quarterly Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of May 19, 2023, Board Executive Committee Meeting
- C. Resolution of Commendation to Melissa Bolton, 2022-2023 Staff Senate President, University of North Alabama
- D. Resolution of Commendation to Jessica Stovall, 2022-2023 Faculty Senate President, University of North Alabama

Upon motion by Dr. Gunn and second by Ms. Whitaker, the consent agenda items listed above were approved separately and severally 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:

- Transitions in leadership of campus constituency groups
- Continued work with City officials to enhance pedestrian safety along Pine Street
- UNA's status in state education budget at close of 2023 legislative session
- Continued Project 208 efforts
- Fall enrollment outlook

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Page presented items from this committee's June 8 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Resolution Approving a Doctor of Social Work Degree Program

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. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Resolution Approving a Master of Science in Occupational Safety and Health Management Degree Program

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. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Approving a Bachelor of Engineering Degree Program and Certificates in Biological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Power Generation Engineering, and Engineering Management

Following summary comments by Mr. Page, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee, Mr. Page moved for approval of the resolution. Upon question from Mr. Trapp, Dr. Zayac explained the difference between certificates and micro-credentials. There being no further discussion, Mr. Russell seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Resolution Approving a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management Degree Program

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. Whitaker, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Resolution Approving a Bachelor of Science in Instructional Technology and Design Degree Program

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 Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

F. Resolution Approving the Addition of Two Concentrations to the Joel R. Anderson Bachelor of Business Administration in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Degree Program

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 Dr. Gunn, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Dr. Carnes was asked to comment about how students in this degree program who wish to start a business or commercialize innovations will make great use of The Generator as part of their studies.

G. Resolution Approving the Creation of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics within the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

Mr. Page gave summary comments in which he noted the overwhelming support of College faculty for dividing into three schools. With the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee, Mr. Page moved for approval of the resolution. Dr. Zayac was asked for additional comments in which he described advantages for better collaboration and efficiency with this type of organizational structure. There being no further discussion, Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

H. Resolution Adopting an Academic Amnesty Policy for Students Enrolled in Graduate Degree Programs at the University of North Alabama

Mr. Page gave introductory comments and asked Dr. Paulk to describe the basis for this new academic policy. With the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Page and second by Dr. Gunn, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

I. Resolution Endorsing the University of North Alabama's Free Speech Compliance Report for Academic Year 2022-2023 Pursuant to Section 16-68-5 of the Code of Alabama

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 Mr. Anderson, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

J. Accomplishments with Regard to 2019-2024 Strategic Plan

Mr. Page provided summary comments on this update shared with the Board twice each year as an information item. A new five-year strategic plan for 2024-2029 is under development and will be presented to the Board for consideration in December. Dr. Kitts affirmed that UNA has made significant accomplishments with regard to the goals and themes set out in the current Strategic Plan document. There were no questions, and this matter required no action by the Board.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Whitaker presented items from this committee's June 8 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Resolution of Appreciation to L.C. and Louise Lenz for Their Dedication to Preserving the Original LaGrange College Site

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. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Ms. Sanford noted that it is important to remember and to remind others that UNA is the oldest four-year educational institution in Alabama and that it traces its roots to its 1830 founding as LaGrange College.

B. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments

The latest endowment reports had been reviewed in the committee setting the previous day, and there were no questions at today's meeting. Mr. Trapp expressed confidence that the funds and portfolios are being handled in an appropriate manner.

As other items of information from the Committee, Ms. Whitaker noted that the recent 1830 Giving Day brought in private gifts from 46 states and five countries. While we are still in the third quarter of fiscal year 2022-2023, the Advancement team has already raised \$29.7 million in new gifts to date, far surpassing this year's \$10 million fundraising goal. This is the second year in a row of record giving. Ms. Whitaker encouraged continued financial support so that private gifts will reach the \$30 million mark by the end of the fiscal year.

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE, ATHLETICS, AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Pierce reported on the array of topics covered during this committee's June 8 meeting. These included:

- Continued work on items in the Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Plan (70% complete to date)
- Student-athlete successes this year:
 - Impressive 3.32 overall GPA this spring
 - 11 of 14 sports set records in ASUN competition
 - Student-athlete participation in over 4,100 hours of community service and involvement
- High number of student housing applications for fall and efforts to meet demand

Mr. Pierce presented one action item from the Committee – **Resolution Approving Updated “Dangerous Weapons and Firearms Policy” for the University of North Alabama**. Though “open carry” is permitted in the State of Alabama, college and universities are allowed to adopt policies that restrict/prohibit weapons on campus. With the recommendation of the Campus Life, Athletics, and Diversity Committee and upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Buchanan, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee vice chair Pierce presented items from this committee's June 8 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending March 31, 2023

The quarterly financial report was thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. The FY 2022-2023 budget is operating at a planned deficit, but mitigation measures are in place to help relieve budget pressure. Net tuition is trending positively through enrollment growth, but there is still much work to be done with regard to state funding and Project 208. Mr. Thornton has been asked to connect with the PFM financial advisory firm to determine any impact on UNA's credit rating if another deficit budget is put in place for the coming fiscal year. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

B. Resolution Approving Proposed University Tuition and Fees for 2023-2024 Academic Year

Mr. Pierce explained that the proposed pricing package for next year provides for a differentiated tuition model whereby costs are based on academic program of study. This model simplifies the tuition picture by eliminating over 600 special fees, course fees, etc., and gives students and families a clearer indication of real tuition costs. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Approving Revised Internal Control Policy

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

D. Resolution Approving New Benefit Programs for University Employees: Paid Birth Recovery Leave ---and--- Paid Parental Leave

In its meeting on June 8, the Committee requested additional information and deferred any action on this matter. It is anticipated that this will come back for consideration at the Trustees meeting in September, with a view toward a potential implementation date of January 1, 2024. Mr. Trapp commended last year's Faculty Senate president Jessica Stovall for her efforts in spearheading this proposal.

E. Information Items

Mr. Pierce noted two additional items brought forward by the Committee, neither of which required any action by the Board:

- (1) **Public Posting of Financial Disclosure Information** – This information item is provided in the meeting materials as a part of each June agenda.
- (2) **2021-2022 Audit Report** – This latest financial audit conducted by the State Examiners of Public Accounts was provided and remains posted on the UNA website.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustees Annual Reaffirmation of Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Duties

Following comments by Mr. Trapp, Board members collectively acknowledged their fiduciary role with the University by submitting signed individual reaffirmation statements at the conclusion of the meeting. These signed statements will be held on file in the President's Office as documentation in support of compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards. *(Statements would be secured after the meeting from those Trustees who were not present in person.)*

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Trapp noted that an executive session was needed to discuss the status of a legal issue and proposed honorary namings from a Board committee. 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. Upon motion by Mr. Page, second by Mr. Pierce, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 10:07 a.m. for a short break and to enter into executive session. At approximately 10:15, the Board entered into executive session. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Mr. Haslam, Dr. Looney, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. Cochran remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and the Board during this closed session.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 10:54 a.m. Mr. Trapp reported that the Board had two action items to present from its discussions in executive session:


1. On behalf of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee, Mr. Pierce presented a **Resolution Authorizing Approval to Proceed with Plans for Construction of a Multi-Purpose Stadium for the University of North Alabama** that was considered in executive session and viewed favorably by the Board. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.
2. On behalf of the Advancement and University Relations Committee, Ms. Whitaker presented a **Resolution Approving Honorary Namings Related to Multi-Purpose Stadium Construction Project** that was considered in executive session and viewed favorably by the Board. Upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Pierce, 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. Page, second by Ms. Whitaker, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Approved September 8, 2023



President Pro Tempore



Secretary