

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, March 4, 2022**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, March 4, 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 February 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 March 4. 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, 2022. On February 24, 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

Mr. Kevin Haslam 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 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
- Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
- Ms. Melissa Bolton, 2021-2022 President of Staff Senate
- Dr. Joy Borah, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Cole Honors College
- Ms. Cindy Conlon, Associate Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Ms. Minnette Ellis, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Dean of Graduate & Online Education, and Board of Trustees Parliamentarian

- Dr. Vicki Pierce, Dean of Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Mr. Jake Russell, Instructional Designer in Educational Technology Services
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Assistant to the President for Administration
- Mr. Jake Statom, 2021-2022 President of Student Government Association
- Ms. Julie Taylor, Executive Director of Admissions and Enrollment Innovation
- Mr. Sam Thigpen, University Videographer/Photographer
- Dr. Jason Watson, 2021-2022 President of Faculty Senate
- Mr. Brian Wilcox, Executive Director of Facilities Administration and Planning
- Mr. Josh Yohn, Director of Enrollment Marketing and Digital Communication
- Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Senior Vice Provost for International Affairs

Also present: *TimesDaily* reporters Bernie Delinski and 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: DECEMBER 10, 2021, QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Mr. Russell submitted the minutes from the previous quarterly meeting for approval. Upon motion by Ms. Sanford and second by Mr. Smith, 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:

- Introduction of Ms. Ellis as UNA's new Dean of Students;
- Success of UNA athletic teams this spring and anticipation of completing transition to NCAA Division I classification this summer;
- UNA's current position in state budget deliberations for FY 2022-2023 and continued Project 208 efforts for equitable state funding;
- Record spring enrollment and expectation of surpassing 9,000 headcount this fall;
- Findings of latest study that UNA has \$341 million impact on local economy; and
- \$6.5 million gift from Anderson family (record private gift for UNA).

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Trapp presented items from this committee's March 3 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Resolution Approving a Micro-Credential in the Area of Hospitality and Events Management

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.

B. Addition of Online Component to Bachelor of Science in Sport and Recreation Management Degree Program

This represents the addition of an online option for an existing academic program. This information item required no action by the Board.

Copies of the new 2021 UNA economic impact study had been provided at the meeting table. Mr. Trapp echoed Dr. Kitts' earlier comments about UNA's impressive \$341 million annual impact on the local economy, and he encouraged his fellow Trustees to share this information throughout the community.

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Whitaker highlighted topics covered in this committee's March 3 meeting, including the recent Anderson family gift, a record year of fundraising, and the status of this year's development goals. She also encouraged her fellow Trustees to participate in the 1830 Giving Day initiative underway for the month of March. She noted two information items from the previous day's committee discussions – **Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments and Annual Endowment Report for UNA Trustees Scholarship Fund** – were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting. There were no questions, and these reports were reviewed in the committee setting the previous day.

Ms. Whitaker then moved to the two action items from this committee's March 3 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Resolution Approving Amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama – Article I, Section 4: Primary Function of the Board (as relates to "Naming Policy")

The proposed bylaws amendment is intended to better align the language in that document with the current "Naming Policy." With the recommendation of the Advancement and University Relations Committee and upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Resolution Affirming Expectation of Financial Support of the University of North Alabama by Members of the UNA Board of Trustees

The Advancement and University Relations Committee amended this resolution during its discussions the previous day, and a revised version for consideration was provided to all Trustees at today's meeting. With the Committee's recommendation and upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Dr. Gunn, the resolution as so amended was approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE, ATHLETICS, AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MATTERS

The Committee had no action items to present from its discussions, but Committee chair Pierce reported on the array of topics covered during this committee's March 3 meeting. These included:

- Diversity: Update on various diversity initiatives/accomplishments
- Athletics: NCAA review team site visit later this month, personnel changes, football locker room renovation project, and recent financial gifts in support of athletics program
- Campus Life: SGA activities this year, status of COVID-19 recovery efforts, campus housing data for spring and projected occupancy for fall, and upcoming campus events this spring

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Abrams presented items from this committee's March 3 discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Review of Financial Information for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021

The quarterly financial report was thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. The University is in a solid financial position in spite of inequitable state funding. Revenue and expenses are as expected. There has been a 32% increase in the scholarship budget, but this is viewed as a necessary expense to assist with recruiting and retention efforts, especially for specific academic programs. Funding has been secured for a new math and computer science building, and construction should begin later this year.

Mr. Abrams noted that the University has held tuition charges level for the past three years, but with next year's preliminary budget again projecting a sizeable deficit, the Board may need to consider a tuition increase to help mitigate costs associated with scholarships, general inflation, and inequitable state funding. The outcome of state education budget deliberations later this spring will be an important factor.

There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

B. Resolution Approving Rental Rates in University-Owned Housing Facilities Effective Fall 2022

Mr. Abrams noted that the proposed housing rental rate increases are based on competitive market rates and comparisons with peer institutions. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Mr. Smith, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Approving Student Meal Plan Prices Effective Fall 2022

The proposed meal plan prices for next year are reflective of general inflation but represent only an average increase of 3.5% thanks to negotiations with the Chartwells food service provider. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abrams and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Resolution Approving Agreement Renewal Between the University of North Alabama and Ellucian Higher Education

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

Mr. Abrams noted that the Committee discussed the status of Project 208 and the need to continue the push with state legislators for funding equity.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Board Self-Evaluation Survey for SACSCOC Compliance

Mr. Russell reviewed SACSCOC criteria as relate to an institutional governing board. As noted in previous settings, a new accreditation standard centers on the 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 in the coming weeks. This new self-evaluation process is scheduled to reoccur on a regular basis. This information item required no action by the Board at this time, but the results of this survey will be reviewed by the Board at a later date.

B. Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Nominate 2022-2024 President Pro Tempore and Vice President Pro Tempore of the UNA Board of Trustees

Mr. Russell named Mr. Abrams, Dr. Gunn, and Ms. Whitaker to serve as a three-member committee to bring forward at the June meeting its nominations for Board officer positions for 2022-2024.

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Russell noted that an executive session was needed to discuss matters from two Board committees and to discuss the status of a pending 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 to discuss 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. Russell and Dr. Kitts prior to today's meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Page, second by Mr. Trapp, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. for a short break and to enter into executive session.

At approximately 10:20, the Board entered into executive session. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Greenway, Mr. Haslam, and Dr. Looney remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and the Board during this closed session. Mr. Haslam and Dr. Looney exited the room following the discussion of a proposed naming of an athletics facility. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Dr. Alexander, and Dr. Greenway remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and Trustees for the duration of executive session.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 10:40 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 Authorizing Honorary Naming of the University's Softball Indoor Hitting Facility as the "Hilda B. Anderson Hitting Facility":** Trustee Joel Anderson II noted that he would abstain from voting on this matter due to his familial relationship with Hilda Anderson. Upon motion by Ms. Sanford and second by Mr. Trapp, the resolution was approved by a vote of 10 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention.
- 2. Resolution Authorizing Honorary Naming of the "Joel R. Anderson Generator" within the UNA College of Business and Technology:** Trustee Joel Anderson II noted that he would abstain from voting on this matter due to his familial relationship with Joel Anderson. Upon

motion by Dr. Gunn and second by Mr. Abrams, the resolution was approved by a vote of 10 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention. Several Trustees made personal comments about the late Joel Anderson's entrepreneurial spirit, his keen business intellect, his strong support for new business ideas, and the fact that it is very fitting for the Generator to carry his name.

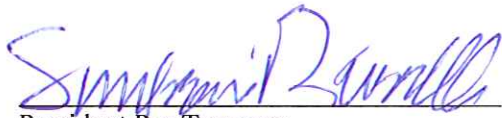
- 3. Resolution Approving Honorary Baccalaureate Degree for Sherri Stout:** Upon motion by Ms. Sanford and second by Mr. Trapp, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

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

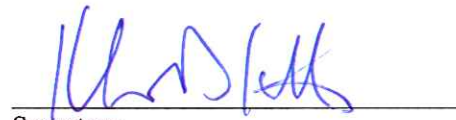
MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Approved June 10, 2022



President Pro Tempore



Secretary