

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA  
FLORENCE, ALABAMA  
10 a.m., Friday, December 15, 2023**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met in The Loft of the Governor's Center in accordance with the 1967 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. A letter from the Governor (dated November 21, 2023) was sent via email to Governor Kay Ivey in requesting that the Governor call the quarterly meeting for December 15, 2023. Proposed letters were sent for the Governor's office to be reviewed in advance of the meeting. Members were advised via email that the agenda, minutes, and supporting documents for items of discussion were available in the software system.

Board President Pro Tempore Will Trapp called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**I. INVOCATION**

Mr. Trapp offered the prayer invocation.

**II. ROLL CALL**

President Kenneth D. Pitts called the roll, and the following members were in attendance:

- |                       |         |          |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|
| Trustee Marty Abrom   | Trustee | Jim Page |
| Trustee Joel Anderson | Trustee | Steve F  |
| Trustee Kyle Buchanan | Trustee | Nancy    |
| Trustee Wendell Gun   | Trustee | Will Tr  |

Trustee Simpson Russell will be absent at roll call, but join the meeting at 9:09 a.m. Ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey, and Trustees Andrew Smith and Anne Whitaker were absent. A quorum of members was in attendance.

**Others present for a portion of the meeting:**

- Mr. Jason Cochran, Executive Director of Government Relations
- Ms. Minnette Ellis, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Chief Diversity Officer
- Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan, General Counsel
- Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Josh Looney, Interim 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. Jen Awwad, Interim Instructional Designer

- Vince Brewton, Dean of College
- Sheena Burgreen, Executive Director of Health and Well-Being
- Greg Carnes, Dean of School of Business and Technology
- Cindy Conlon, Associate Director for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Brian Ford, 2023-2024 Student Government President
- Matt Green, Interim Director of Education and Human Sciences
- Lauren Killen, 2023-2024 Student Government President
- John McGee, Executive Director of International Technology Services
- Michelle Nelson, Associate Director of the Jackson College of Nursing & Health Professions
- Amber Paulk, Deputy Director of Trustees Parliamentarian
- Amber Sandvig, 2023-2024 Student Government Association President
- Regina Sherrill, Senior Director for Administration
- Julie Taylor, Assistant Director for Enrollment Management
- Ryan Zayac, Interim Director of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

Also present: *TimesDaily* reporter

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. [Name] proposed submitted the agenda items and Mr. [Name] seconded. Upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. [Name], the agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

### IV. APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. [Name] proposed submitted the following items for collective approval:

- A. Minutes of September 2023 Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of October 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

Upon motion by Mr. Buchanan and second by Mr. [Name], the consent agenda items listed above were approved separately and by unanimous vote.

### V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. [Name] gave a brief summary of the President's report to the Board, which included the following items:

- Commendation of the Executive Director and Senior leadership team
- Recent notice of SACS accreditation for another 10 years with no monitoring or follow-up
- Launch of public phase of comprehensive campaign
- Enrollment update (recruitment, headcount, credit hour production, retention rate, and graduation rate)

- BEST Robotics Competition and Trumbauer Theater Festival hosted on campus on week end of December 1-3; potential enrollment impact to be determined; estimated local economic impact of \$1 million
- Continued push with Progress 208 efforts as 2024 legislative session approaches
- Recognition of Dr. Carnes with his announcement of plans to step down as dean in August 2024

## VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

Committee chair Page presented items from this committee's December 14 discussion that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

### A. Resolution Approving an Accelerated Master's Program (AM) for the Master of Health Administration (MHA) Degree

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.

### B. Accomplishments with Regard to 2019-2024 Strategic Plan

Dr. Kinney gave summary comments as part of this twice-yearly update of progress with the current strategic plan. There are many signal accomplishments to celebrate as we conclude this guiding document and look to a new plan for the coming five-year term. This information item required no action by the Board.

### C. Resolution Adopting 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

Mr. Page commended the Strategic Plan Steering Committee that has worked diligently over many months to bring forward a proposed draft of a new plan. He noted that the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee recommends this option, and Mr. Page made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Anderson (a member of the Steering Committee) made additional comments and seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Trapp expressed appreciation to the Steering Committee for its hard work, pointing out that the institutional strategic plan document is published on the UNA website, and noted that the Board receives periodic updates as to progress with each Plan.

Mr. Page also shared some other notes of interest from the preceding afternoon's committee meeting:

- UNA's selection as part of the Alabama Space Grant Consortium
- Significant rise in the UNA retention rate over the past decade

- UNA housing training for first responders (purchase of 50,000 service hours at the Justice Center)
- Opening soon for JNA space and Math Building in Hunt Street
- Opportunities for hand-on experience in building a generator at College Street

**VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee vice chair of particular note: during fiscal year 2023, the most significant information item from the previous University Endowment questions, and committee setting the

age highlighted in Advancement 2023, the most significant information item from the previous University Endowment questions, and committee setting the

prel in \$4.5 million in private UN... fund-raising sessions – University for the future had been re... on University day's

**VIII. CAMPUS LIFE, ATHLETICS, AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Committee chair Pier reported on December 14 meeting

These included:

- Diversity Initiative Academy; high inclusion; and 10th anniversary
- Campus Life: great recruiting events in early university Center and SGA activities
- Athletics: \$1 million in cash for installation at and expanding

... reported on these sports events: Comm... number of events... 10th anniversary... great recruiting events in early university Center and SGA activities... million in cash for installation at and expanding

The Committee had a resolution to oversee Program. Dr. Loone in this construction project. Upon majority vote was approved by unanimous vote.

... resolution to oversee Program. Dr. Loone in this construction project. Upon majority vote was approved by unanimous vote.

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**IX. FINANCIAL MATTERS, FACILITIES, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Committee discussed the following items:

- Implementation of Priority 208 efforts
- University's financial status
- Workforce development initiatives
- Long-term strategic planning

Mr. Abramson presented the following items from the Board:

**Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2023**

The report indicates that the FY 2023 budget was only \$2 million over budget, resulting in a surplus of \$7.3 million. This surplus was primarily due to a \$17 million shift in maintenance spending, which was reviewed in detail during the 2023 Fiscal Year. The Board noted that the actual spending was significantly lower than the budgeted amount, and this was a positive outcome for the University's financial health.

**Authorization for Renovation of Stevens Hall**

Mr. Abramson presented a recommendation for the renovation of Stevens Hall. The estimated cost for these renovations is \$2 million. The Board approved the recommendation, and the necessary funding was allocated from the University's operating budget.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other items of business presented to the Board.

**XI. T FOF RECU E S ON**

Mr. Tra... matters... practice... of these... allows... legal ra... compli... Buchan... enter in... hat ar... ard co... State... exec... ve ses... s of p... he Op... nanir... e ses... ecutive... ittee... Alaba... e sess... to di... ng liti... Meeti... s vote... ne... io... b)... As... as... th... n... ct... ne... eed led to discuss (a) proposed honorary namings of a legal issue. As an attorney licensed in Alabama, Morgan could affirm that the Board's discussion was authorized under Section 3 of the Code of Alabama that protects the professional reputation and character of individuals and that, therefore, an executive session would be in compliance with the provisions of the Alabama Constitution. The discussion was initiated by Mr. Russell, second by Mr. Russell, and then discussed at 10:02 a.m. for a short break and

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The Bo... from the... session... ec... va... vi... ened i... gular... Unive... l favo... ly by... ba... 9 a.m. Mr. Page presented two action items to the Board of Trustees that were considered in executive session.

Res... Hea... of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Dr. Frenesi P. Wilson

Upo... unar... y Mr... e... ge and... he... nc... Sanford, the resolution was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Res... Uni... thori... g Hon... of... of the "Healthcare Heroes Plaza" on the University of Alabama campus.

Upo... unar... y Ms... e... ge and... nc... Pierce, the resolution was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Tra... discussi... Corpor... in which... initiative... by unan... er... -... h i... no... po... us... sente... olutio... appor... he m... otion... addit... atifyi... the U... positi... Mr. Pi... ac... or... rsi... f a... and... m that stemmed from executive session of The 1830 Foundation as a Nonprofit Corporation in North Alabama. Following summary comments by Mr. Russell, the resolution was approved by the Board of Trustees.


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**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Buchanan, second by Mr. Russell, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Approved March 15, 2024

  
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President Pro Tempore

  
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Secretary