

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**The University of West Alabama**  
**Bell Conference Center**  
**December 1, 2017, 11 a.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Jerry Smith, President *Pro Tempore*, called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Jerry Smith asked Mrs. Beard to call the roll. Other than Mr. Jerry Smith, members attending were: Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Jerry Groce, Dr. John Killian, Mr. Thed Spree, Mr. Justin Smith, and Mr. Victor Vernon. Mrs. Beard announced there was a quorum present. Also attending were: Mr. Mike Kendrick (University Attorney), President Ken Tucker, and several other administrators and staff members, with Katie Beard recording the minutes.

Mr. Jerry Smith asked Dr. John Killian to open the meeting with a prayer.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

***Mr. Hal Bloom moved to approve the Agenda; Mr. Victor Vernon seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.***

**IV. Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2017**

Mr. Jerry Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meeting held on September 18, 2017. There were none. ***Mr. Hal Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.***

**V. Report from the Athletic Committee**

Mr. Justin Smith reported that the Athletic Committee received the following reports: Mr. Stan Williamson provided an overview of the 2017 Fall Athletic teams, Head Men's Soccer Coach Matthew Thorne gave a presentation regarding the success of his team, and Mr. Johnnie Aycock updated the committee on the Rodeo Arena Project. This project will be re-evaluated at the June Board meeting to assess whether it will still be pursued.

Four resolutions were adopted recognizing the 2017 success of the Men's Soccer Team, Football Team, Ye Eun Jin from the Golf Team, and Lance Daniel from the Rodeo Team. ***On a motion by Dr. John Killian and seconded by Mr. Hal Bloom the above resolutions were approved. This motion carried.***

Dr. Tucker recognized Mr. Stan Williamson for the excellent job he is doing as Athletic Director for this University. He also commended the coaching staff for their excellent leadership and performance. UWA is excelling on the field as well as in the classroom.

**VI. Report from the Institutional Advancement**

Mr. Bloom reported that Dr. Chris Thomason provided an update on Development and Alumni Affairs. He applauded Dr. Thomason and Dr. Jones for their exceptional work on the Calling All Tigers campaign and feels that UWA is turning the corner in regards to the Institutional Advancement Department.

**VII. Report from the Facilities Committee**

Mr. Jerry Smith, serving as Facilities chair in the absence of Mrs. Jean Anderson, presented two resolutions one regarding the Energy Savings Plan and the other to approve suggested architectural firms for use by the University on all projects totaling less than \$500,000.

The first resolution stated WHEREAS, Schneider Electric Buildings America, Inc. ("Schneider") has requested the University to authorize the execution of an Investment Grade Audit Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Agreement"), in order to enable Schneider to perform an investment grade audit to determine the scope of work, guaranteed savings amount, energy conservation measures, and project price for a comprehensive improvement program; and WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered this request and has determined that it would be in the best interest of the University to authorize the President of the University to execute the Agreement attached as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the University of West Alabama Board of Trustees at a regular meeting called on December 1, 2017, a Quorum being present, as follows:

1. That the Board of Trustees does by adoption of this resolution authorize the President of the University to enter into the Investment Grade Audit Agreement, attached as Exhibit A, with Schneider in order to perform the investment grade audit for a comprehensive improvement program.

2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Trustees.

***On a motion by Mr. Hal Bloom and a second by Mr. Victor Vernon, the Schneider Electric resolution was approved as presented. The motion carried.***

The second resolution read: WHEREAS, the University of West Alabama Board of Trustees has previously authorized the selection of architects/engineering firms to provide services to the University; and WHEREAS, the previous authorization of the Board has expired; and WHEREAS, the Director of Physical Plant has recommended to the Board that the architect/engineering firms listed in Exhibit A be authorized to provide architect and engineering services for a period of two years from the date of the adoption of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the University of West Alabama at a regular meeting duly called on December 1, 2017, a quorum being present, as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees does by the adoption of this Resolution authorize the President of the University to select and retain architects and engineering firms listed in Exhibit A for all University projects which do not exceed the sum of \$500,000.00 during a period of two years from the date of the adoption of this Resolution.

2. This Resolution will become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Trustees of the University of West Alabama.

***On a motion by Mr. Hal Bloom and a second by Mr. Victor Vernon the architectural/engineering firm resolution was approved as presented. The motion carried.***

Mr. Jerry Smith stated a committee was formed to select an architect to construct the proposed new dorms on the campus of UWA. The committee sent out RFP's and interviewed three firms. The committee recommended Seay Seay & Litchfield, in the event the project moves forward. ***On a motion by Dr. John Killian and a second by Mr. Jerry Groce the architectural firm of Seay Seay & Litchfield was approved as presented. The motion carried.*** Mr. Smith stated that three possible funding sources are being researched for construction and include: 1) bond issue 2) bank financing or 3) having a private company construct the building, by an architect of their choosing, and lease the property back to the University.

#### **VIII. Report from the Finance Committee**

Mr. Jerry Smith, serving as Finance chair in the absence of Mrs. Sheila Cloud, reported that Mr. Lawson Edmonds provided the goals/accomplishments for 2017/2018, and stated that a new independent audit firm has been hired by the University. CDPA from Athens, AL will be on campus starting the beginning of 2018. Mr. Smith added that he has been increasingly impressed with the performance of Mr. Edmonds and Dr. Tucker in meeting all of the goals and accomplishments set forth in 2017/2018.

Dr. Tucker announced that Mr. Lawson Edmonds has been serving as the Interim Vice-President of Financial Affairs for the past year and has been doing an outstanding job. As a result of his performance he will now remove interim from his title and he will begin serving as the Vice-President of Financial Affairs effective January 1, 2018.

#### **IX. Report from the University President**

##### *CUCAO Strategic Plan*

Dr. Tucker stated that The Alabama Commission on Higher Education requested that the Council of University Chief Academic Officers (CUCAO) develop a draft strategic plan for the public universities in the state. The CUCAO appointed a subcommittee, chaired by Kevin Whitaker (UA) and David Johnson (USA), to develop a draft for consideration by the full membership. That draft was presented to Sen. Del Marsh on November 28, 2017. Sen Del Marsh was pleased with the draft presented. Eventually a comprehensive strategic plan will be formed and will include public universities, community colleges, and the K-12 system. Dr. Tucker commended Dr. Edwards on his hard work in helping draft this plan.

##### *McIlwain Bell Trustee & Nellie Rose McCrory Award Winners*

Dr. Edwards introduced the recipients of the McIlwain-Bell Awards and they are as follows:

##### *McIlwain-Bell Awards*

Support Staff Award – Ms. Jana Cram

Professional Staff Award – Mrs. Tammy White

Trustee Professor Award – Dr. Natasha Satcher

##### *Nellie Rose McCrory Service Excellence Award*

Dr. Thomas Ratkovich

***On a motion by Dr. John Killian and a second by Mr. Victor Vernon the McIlwain Bell Trustee and Nellie Rose McCrory Award winners were approved. The motion carried.***

***A motion was made Mr. Jerry Groce and seconded by Mr. Hal Bloom to create resolutions honoring the McIlwain Bell and Nellie Rose McCrory award winners. This motion carried.***

Miscellaneous Items

Dr. Tucker recognized Dr. Chris Thomason and his team for their outstanding progress. Ms. Danielle Buckalew and her team are hosting more alumni events, having more participation, and bringing in more scholarship dollars than ever before. Homecoming was hugely successful, with the highest number of attendees present to date at the Alumni party and NAA event. He also thanked Dr. Amy Jones and her team for their remarkable success on the Calling All Tigers project.

Dr. Tucker announced that the official signing ceremony was held for the University Charter School and the five-year contract was signed. The UCS Governing Board has held its first public meeting recently and has opened pre-registration to Sumter County residents with great response. The next pre-registration will welcome those residing outside of Sumter County.

Dr. Tucker stated that a ribbon cutting was held at the Workforce Development Center on the campus of UWA. A large group attended the ceremony and included elected officials such as Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Angela Till, Secretary of Labor Fitzgerald Washington, and Board of Trustee Member Mr. Joseph Brown. Tours of the new facility were held following the ceremony.

Dr. Tucker presented the enrollment numbers for the Fall Two Online term. The 2017 Fall Two Term showed 2,315 students enrolled compared to 1,663 in the 2016 Fall Two term. Since Spring One 2017, online has been able to add 2,830 additional students, with 420 new students slated to begin in the 2018 Spring One term. Total 2017 Online enrollment shows 12,485 students in comparison to 9,655 for 2016.

Dr. Tucker announced that a site visit was held on the campus of UWA to review the status of the CPI grant. Two individuals met with multiple areas of administration and faculty/staff. These individuals were extremely complimentary and stated that UWA is one of the top performing institutions that received this grant.

Dr. Tucker reported that Preview Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> had 402 students attending in comparison to the 287 students that attended in November 2016.

## **X. Report from the Board President**

Mr. Jerry Smith stated that he was impressed with the leadership and momentum that UWA has experienced under Dr. Tucker's guidance. The quality of the faculty/staff at UWA are extraordinary and UWA is truly a well-kept secret. He thanked all of the faculty and staff for all that they do.

Mr. Jerry Groce reported on the status of the Presidential Evaluation Committee. He thanked Mr. Spree and Dr. Killian for agreeing to serve on this committee and stated that an instrument has been prepared as a tool to provide a comprehensive evaluation. The evaluation will allow for a broad perspective from those in the community, UWA faculty/staff/administration, and local business people. This will provide three things: 1) input from people that are impacted by UWA 2) allow the Board to gauge the impact UWA has on the community and 3) create insight into how UWA can do a better job in responding to the community. Each recipient will receive the evaluation over the phone, via mail or in-person with results being presented at the March Board meeting.

Mr. Jerry Smith announced that the By-Laws Committee met on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Regional Office in Montgomery, AL to discuss possible changes to the By-Laws. This committee is proposing four changes to the by-laws and include 1) Committee meetings can be held by phone 2) The Board of Trustees to approve by advise or consent the hiring of all high ranking administration positions 3) the Board will approve honorary degrees 4) the addition of a Board member removal policy in the event of conviction or missing multiple meetings without excuse. Mr. Kendrick will be drafting these changes for submission to the Legislature before the session begins in January 2018, as a change to the bylaws means a change to the enabling act and has to be approved by the State Legislature. ***On a motion by Mr. Victor Vernon and a second by Mr. Hal Bloom, the by-law changes were approved as presented. This motion carried.***

Mr. Jerry Smith welcomed Mr. Jimmy Collins who has been appointed as a liaison to the Board of Trustees from the UWA Foundation Board. He also thanked Dr. Killian for serving as the liaison to the UWA Foundation Board from the Board of Trustees.

## **XI. Other Business**

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Dr. R.T. Floyd for generously pledging an estate gift to the University in the amount of \$100,000.

Mr. Jerry Smith announced that a status update for the University Charter School will be given by Dr. J.J. Wedgworth and Governing Board Chairman Mr. Micky Smith at the March Board meeting.

**XII. Adjourn**

Mr. Jerry Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Mr. Justin Smith moved to adjourn; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Katie Beard*

Assistant Secretary to the Board