

**The University of West Alabama
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Bell Conference Center
Livingston, Alabama
December 2, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.**

I. Call to Order

Mr. Hal Bloom called the meeting to order and requested Ms. Terry to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

Board members attending were Ms. Jennifer Agee, Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Randy Hillman, Mr. Matthew Lavender, Mr. Michael Maddox, Mr. Tom Perry, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, Mr. Victor Vernon, and Ms. Jody Wise. Ms. Terry announced that a quorum was present. Also attending were Mr. Mike Kendrick, university attorney; Dr. Ken Tucker, university president; and Ms. Toni Terry, assistant secretary to the board, recording minutes.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Jody Wise moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Tom Perry seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2024, and September 18, 2024

Mr. Bloom asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024, and September 18, 2024 meetings. *Mr. Tom Perry made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Joseph Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.*

V. Report from the Institutional Advancement Committee

Mr. Randy Hillman advised that Dr. JJ Wedgworth provided a report regarding fundraising comparisons and upcoming project goals; alumni chapter events throughout 2024; focus areas within strategic communications, including the *UWA Today* magazine; an overview of contracts and grants; and an update regarding the UWA Cahaba Biodiversity Center.

VI. Report from the Athletic Committee

Mr. Scott Stadthagen advised that Mr. Brett Gilliland provided a report regarding athletic standings and results after Fall 2024, upcoming opening dates for Winter 2024/Spring 2025 sports, live sports coverage through FloCollege, the Homer Field House project, and the potential addition of flag football as a new women's sport.

VII. Report from the Facilities Committee

Mr. Joseph Brown advised that Mr. Chris Egbert provided a report regarding the renovations of Foust Hall, the Student Union and Recreation Center, the addition at Homer Field House, the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame, the UWA Amphitheater, the Black Belt Development Center, and the turf project at Tartt Field.

VIII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mr. Matthew Lavender advised that Mr. Clete Beard provided a report regarding the financial summary for the year ending September 30, 2024, budgets versus actuals for Fiscal Year 2024, and a summary revenue and expense comparison for 2019 through 2024. The bottom line of revenue over expenses for the year, approximately \$24.8 million, was highlighted.

IX. Report from the University President

2025 Lorraine McIlwain Bell Trustee and Nellie Rose McCrory Award Winners

Provost Tina N. Jones announced and congratulated the 2025 Lorraine McIlwain Bell Trustee and Nellie Rose McCrory Service Excellence Award recipients:

Lorraine McIlwain Bell Trustee Awards

Support Staff Excellence Award Ms. Brenda Killough

Professional Staff Excellence Award Ms. Bliss Adkison

Trustee Professor Award Dr. Jan Miller

Nellie Rose McCrory Service Excellence Award

Dr. James "Jeff" Gentsch

Division of Nursing

For their review, prior to the meeting held on December 2, 2024, Dr. Ken Tucker submitted a proposal with rationale to the board regarding changing the name of the Ira D. Pruitt Division of Nursing to the Ira D. Pruitt College of Nursing. The name change, along with some accompanying organizational changes, is a strategic initiative aiming to reflect the evolution of nursing education and practice, further enhance UWA's institutional identity and the nursing program's identity and effectiveness, and attract a larger pool of prospective students and faculty. The resolution below was presented to the board:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has been requested to consider a proposal to change the name of the Ira D. Pruitt Division of Nursing to the Ira D. Pruitt College of Nursing at the University of West Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Division and the President of the University do recommend the change of name of the Division of Nursing in order to reflect the evolving landscape of nursing education, align the Division of Nursing with regional and national trends, and enhance the University's identity, in order to attract prospective students, faculty and funding opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the University of West Alabama Board of Trustees, at a regular meeting duly called on December 2, 2024, a quorum being present, as follows:

1. That, by the adoption of this Resolution by the Board of Trustees of the University, the current Division of Nursing shall be known as the Ira D. Pruitt College of Nursing at the University of West Alabama.

2. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately by its adoption by the Board of Trustees of the University of West Alabama.

Mr. Joseph Brown made a motion to approve the name change from the Ira D. Pruitt Division of Nursing to the Ira D. Pruitt College of Nursing; Mr. Matthew Lavender seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Dr. Tucker announced that Dr. Mary Hanks would serve as the inaugural dean of the college.

Major Accomplishments and Parting Remarks

Dr. Tucker reviewed and highlighted noteworthy achievements during his tenure, including significant successes relative to the University's remarkable financial turnaround, from -\$5.7 million in 2016 to \$24.8 million in 2024; national and state recognition of the University Charter School, which has only been in operation since 2018; the unprecedented growth of online programs from 1,995 students in 2016 to 5,656 students in 2024; the addition of new, high-quality, and in-demand academic programs; economic and workforce development enterprises such as Enviva Inc., Skills on Wheels STEM Lab, and the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area designation; campus enrichment through international programs and students from over 40 different countries; approximately \$70 million in capital projects and facility enhancements; numerous athletic championships and recognition, including student-athlete academic accomplishments; notable growth of grant awards; successful Covid-19 response; and various recognition and initiatives, such as receiving the Governor's Seal of Excellence Award, consecutive tuition freezes, and merit salary increases.

Dr. Tucker shared that it had been an honor and privilege to serve as president and take the University to even greater heights than when he entered the role. Citing pride in the achievements that had been accomplished, Dr. Tucker expressed his gratitude to the board, faculty, and staff for their support and friendship.

X. Report from the Board President

Resolution for Outgoing University President Ken Tucker

On behalf of the UWA Board of Trustees, Mr. Bloom thanked Dr. Tucker for his work and requested that Mr. Mike Kendrick read the following resolution in Dr. Tucker's honor:

WHEREAS, Dr. Ken Tucker has a long and distinguished career with the University of West Alabama (the "University"), initially from 1983 to 1992 and then from 2007 to the time of his retirement on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker holds B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Tucker's tenure at the University he has served in various capacities, namely, as Dean of the University's College of Business and Professor of Management; as Chairperson of the University's Foundation Board of Directors and Small Business Development Center; and, as a member of the faculty, as President of the Faculty Senate and a recipient of the prestigious William E. Gilbert Award that recognizes outstanding teaching and excellence in classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2015, Dr. Tucker became the twelfth President of the University and has continued in that capacity until his retirement on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tucker has served as Chairperson of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents; as President of the NCAA Gulf South Conference Board of Directors; and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama CollegeCounts and Prepaid Affordable College Tuition programs, the Alabama Higher Education Partnership, the Alabama Small Business Development Consortium, the Alabama Public Safety Leadership Academy, the Alabama STEM Council, the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame and the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University desires to publicly commend and thank Dr. Ken Tucker for his outstanding association with and service to the University of West Alabama until his retirement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the University of West Alabama Board of Trustees, at a regular meeting duly called on December 2, 2024, a quorum being present, as follows:

1. That the Board of Trustees of the University does by the adoption of this Resolution express their sincere gratitude to Dr. Ken Tucker for his exemplary service to the University from 1983 to 1992 and from 2007 until the date of his retirement on December 31, 2024.

2. That the Board of Trustees does by the adoption of this Resolution publicly commend Dr. Tucker for his long, outstanding and dedicated service to the University.

3. That the Board of Trustees does direct that a copy of this Resolution, after its adoption, be distributed to Dr. Tucker and to such other persons or organizations as deemed appropriate by the President of the Board of Trustees.

4. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately by its adoption by the Board of Trustees of the University.

A motion was made by Ms. Jody Wise and seconded by Mr. Tom Perry to approve the resolution in honor of Dr. Tucker; the motion carried.

Nominating Committee for Board President

Mr. Bloom, whose term as board president will conclude in June 2025, appointed the following board members to the Nominating Committee for Board President: Mr. Tom Perry (chair), Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, and Ms. Jody Wise.

Executive Session

Mr. Bloom indicated that there would be an executive session if needed. Mr. Kendrick advised that the executive session would be limited to discussing potential future litigation. Mr. Bloom estimated that the session would be approximately 15-20 minutes in duration. ***A motion was made by Mr. Tom Perry and seconded by Mr. Joseph Brown for the board to enter into an executive session at 11:24 a.m. At 11:57 a.m., Mr. Tom Perry made a motion for the board to come out of executive session and back into the regular quarterly board meeting; Mr. Joseph Brown seconded, and the motion was approved.***

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XII. Other Business

On behalf of Deans' Council and President's Council, Dr. Jones announced that Dr. Tucker had been named UWA's first president emeritus. Dr. Jones further noted that this esteemed honor would be recognized at commencement and cited in the program. Dr. Tucker thanked Dr. Jones, expressing his appreciation for the honor.

XIII. Adjourn

Ms. Jody Wise made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Tom Perry seconded, and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Terry

**The University of West Alabama
Board of Trustees
Athletic Committee
Bell Conference Center**

**December 2, 2024 - 9:00 a.m., or immediately following the conclusion of the
Institutional Advancement Committee Meeting**

I. Call to Order

Mr. Scott Stadthagen called the meeting to order and requested Ms. Terry to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

Committee members attending were Ms. Jennifer Agee, Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Matthew Lavender, Mr. Michael Maddox, Mr. Tom Perry, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, and Mr. Victor Vernon. Ms. Terry announced that a quorum was present. Also attending were Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Brett Gilliland, Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Randy Hillman, Mr. Mike Kendrick, Dr. Ken Tucker, Ms. Jody Wise, and Ms. Toni Terry recording minutes.

III. Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2024

Mr. Stadthagen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024 meeting. **Mr. Victor Vernon made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Tom Perry seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.**

IV. UWA Athletics Review and Update

Interim Athletic Director Brett Gilliland provided the following review and update:

Fall 2024 Sports Results

Football finished the season with a 9-1 overall record and 5-1 in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). UWA hosted the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) playoffs on November 23, 2024, and Mr. Gilliland was named GSC Co-Coach of the Year. The following players were named to the All-GSC team: Mr. Caeleb Bass, Mr. Khrist Binion, Mr. Lamar Gray, Mr. Elijah Guyton, Mr. Davonta Jackson, Mr. Allen Jones, Jr., Mr. Trevon Lambert, Mr. Ishamel Naylor, Mr. Ben Newton, Mr. Cody Sigler, Mr. Trevon Stanford, Mr. Trey Sullivan, Mr. Jaden Taylor, and Mr. Issac Williams.

Volleyball concluded the season with a 2-26 record overall and 0-18 in the GSC.

The men's rodeo team finished the season in second place in the Ozark Region and eighth in the nation. The women's team finished in first place regionally and eleventh in the nation.

Men's soccer concluded the season with an overall record of 5-7-3 and 3-6-2 in the GSC. Mr. Timon Dressell and Mr. Ellis Williamson were named Second Team All-GSC. Women's soccer concluded the season with an overall record of 3-9-3 and 2-7-3 in the GSC.

Men's Cross Country finished in eighth place in the GSC, while the women's team finished eleventh. Ms. Kayley Key earned the Women's Cross Country 2024 GSC Champion Scholar Athlete Award as the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average among the participating teams.

Winter 2024/Spring 2025 Sports Opening Dates

Mr. Gilliland shared the following opening dates with the board:

- November 9, 2024 - Men's Basketball (Albany State University)
- November 12, 2024 - Women's Basketball (Tuskegee University)*
- November 14, 2024 - Men's Basketball (John Melvin University)*
- January 31, 2025 - Baseball (Columbus State University)* and Softball Tournament (in Gulf Shores)
- February 1, 2025 - Men's and Women's Tennis (Alabama State University)
- February 5, 2025 - Women's Tennis (Auburn University at Montgomery)*
- February 9, 2025 - Men's Tennis (Columbus State University)*
- February 15, 2025 - Men's and Women's Track and Field (Samford University)
- February 21, 2025 - Softball (Auburn University at Montgomery)*
- March 6-8, 2025 - Men's and Women's Rodeo (at Arkansas Tech University)

- March 8, 2025 - Men's and Women's Track and Field*

**opener at home*

Live Sports Coverage

Launched through FloSports, FloCollege provides a comprehensive NCAA sports platform that offers live streams of more than 100,000 annual events across 20 sports. A subscription is required for exclusive content.

Women's Flag Football

Mr. Gilliland reported that flag football was an emerging sport for women that the University was considering. There are low associated costs and a large recruitment pool, potentially adding 20-30 new female student-athletes. Additionally, UWA already has a locker room and playing facilities. The sport is sanctioned in 12 states, including Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee. There are 51 colleges and universities that have added this sport, with the NCAA planning to sponsor a national championship by 2028.

Homer Field House Project

Mr. Gilliland noted the significance of the renovations to Homer Field House, not only for the football program with regards to the new locker room but also for all student-athletes, as this project will include a new recruiting room and balcony where career development events can be hosted.

V. Other Business

Mr. Darrell Redden has been hired as the director of athletic communications and has done a great job thus far.

Dr. Ken Tucker announced that interim would be removed from Mr. Gilliland's athletic director position, as he has completed his probationary term and exceeded expectations.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Hal Bloom made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Matthew Lavender seconded, and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Terry

The University of West Alabama

Board of Trustees

Finance Committee

Bell Conference Center

December 2, 2024 – 9:00 a.m., or immediately following the conclusion of the

Facilities Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mr. Matthew Lavender called the meeting to order and requested Ms. Terry to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

Committee members attending were Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Matthew Lavender, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, and Mr. Victor Vernon. Ms. Terry announced that a quorum was present. Also

attending were Ms. Jennifer Agee, Mr. Clete Beard, Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Randy Hillman, Mr. Mike Kendrick, Mr. Michael Maddox, Mr. Tom Perry, Dr. Ken Tucker, Ms. Jody Wise, and Ms. Toni Terry recording minutes.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2024

Mr. Lavender asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. ***Mr. Joseph Brown made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Hal Bloom seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.***

IV. Year-end Financial Summary Report

Vice President of Financial Affairs Clete Beard provided a report showing the year-end financials for UWA (for the year ending September 30, 2024):

<u>Year-End Financial Summary Report</u>	
REVENUES	
Student Tuition and Fees (Net of Scholarship Allowances - \$15,499,177.31)	\$ 42,502,614.41
Federal Grants and Contracts	\$ 4,774,492.04
State and Local Grants and Contracts	\$ 2,069,348.40
Indirect Cost Recovery Restricted	\$ 9,915.00
Non-Governmental Grants and Contracts	\$ 865,292.74
Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue	\$ 3,739,401.49
Other Operating Revenues	\$ 3,244,632.10
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 57,205,696.18
EXPENSES	
Instruction	\$ 42,914,651.24
Research	\$ 229,728.18
Public Service	\$ 3,313,656.45
Academic Support	\$ 5,748,351.09
Student Services	\$ 12,196,096.33
Institutional Support	\$ 7,603,227.98
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	\$ 7,424,846.13
Depreciation	\$ 3,244,992.26

Subscription-Based Technology Amortization	\$ 1,735,982.26
Student Aid	\$ 1,561,322.54
Auxiliary Services	\$ 4,386,740.55
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 90,359,595.01
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (33,153,898.83)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
State Appropriation	\$ 46,205,588.00
Federal Grants	\$ 10,940,171.96
PSCA Bond Revenue	\$ 1,776,816.93
Investment Income	\$ 9,840.86
Interest on Capital Assets (Related Debt)	\$ (2,009,145.06)
Other Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	\$ 1,065,002.64
Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	\$ 57,988,275.33
Income Before Other Revenues, Expenses	\$ 24,834,376.50

V. Budget Versus Actuals – Fiscal Year 2024

The following budgeted versus actual figures were reported regarding Fiscal Year 2024:

<u>Budget vs. Actuals (Fiscal Year 2024)</u>		
REVENUE	Budget	Actuals
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)		
State of Alabama Appropriations	\$ 27,810,078	\$ 27,810,078
Tuition and Fees – Campus	\$ 9,045,250	\$ 7,675,204
Tuition and Fees – Online	\$ 38,500,000	\$ 40,556,088
Other Operating Revenues	\$ 385,000	\$ 3,111,379
Total O&M Revenue	\$ 75,740,328	\$ 79,152,749

Auxiliary		
Residence Hall	\$ 3,535,000	\$ 3,735,661
Food Services	\$ 1,497,725	\$ 1,817,562
Other Auxiliary Revenues	\$ 1,168,950	\$ 1,367,696
Total Auxiliary Revenue	\$ 6,201,675	\$ 6,920,919
Restricted		
Special State Appropriations		\$ 18,395,510
Student Fees Revenue	\$ 5,204,610	\$ 5,632,612
Grants and Contracts Revenue	\$ 5,009,080	\$ 18,245,910
Total Restricted Revenue	\$ 10,213,690	\$ 42,274,032
GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 92,155,693	\$ 128,347,700
EXPENSES	Budget	Actuals
O&M		
Instruction	\$ 33,889,686	\$ 33,346,919
Research and Public Service	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,620
Institutional Support	\$ 20,452,160	\$ 23,320,304
Academic Support	\$ 2,327,857	\$ 1,897,750
Student Services	\$ 3,705,415	\$ 3,816,808
Athletics	\$ 7,481,478	\$ 6,984,181
Operation and Maintenance	\$ 4,856,233	\$ 4,482,652
Scholarships	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 2,959,537
Total O&M Expenses	\$ 75,722,829	\$ 76,816,771
Auxiliary		
Residence Hall	\$ 3,510,052	\$ 3,377,237

Food Services	\$ 1,418,975	\$ 1,598,732
Other Auxiliary Expenses	\$ 1,061,850	\$ 1,186,145
Total Auxiliary Expenses	\$ 5,990,877	\$ 6,162,114
Restricted		
Special State Appropriations		\$ 8,061,231
Student Fees Expense	\$ 5,147,410	\$ 4,940,023
Grants and Contracts Expenses	\$ 5,009,080	\$ 18,242,707
Total Restricted Expenses	\$ 10,156,490	\$ 31,243,961
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 91,870,196	\$ 114,222,846
OVERALL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 285,497	\$ 14,124,854

Mr. Joseph Brown inquired about the University's plan relative to the significant amount of funding received in special appropriations from the State, given that there was no guarantee that this funding would be available year to year. Mr. Beard assured the board that these funds were not considered part of the regular annual budget for UWA and were restricted/earmarked. In addition, it was reported that the University's financial reserves were at an all-time high of approximately \$39 million.

VI. Summary Revenue and Expense Comparison

The summary revenue and expense comparison for each year listed below was reviewed:

FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
\$ (24,357.11)	\$ 7,304,116.30	\$ 6,813,783.05	\$ 8,464,229.43	\$ 18,512,551.11	\$ 24,834,376.50

VII. Other Business

There was no other business.

VIII. Adjourn

Mr. Joseph Brown made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Victor Vernon seconded, and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Terry

The University of West Alabama
Board of Trustees
Institutional Advancement Committee
Bell Conference Center
December 2, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Hal Bloom called the meeting to order and requested Ms. Terry to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

The committee members attending were Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Jerry Groce, and Ms. Jody Wise. Ms. Terry announced that a quorum was present. Also attending were Ms. Jennifer Agee, Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Mike Kendrick, Mr. Matthew Lavender, Mr. Michael Maddox, Mr. Tom Perry, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, Dr. Ken Tucker, Mr. Victor Vernon, Dr. JJ Wedgworth, and Ms. Toni Terry recording minutes.

III. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2023, and June 3, 2024

Mr. Bloom asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held on December 11, 2023, and June 3, 2024. ***Ms. Jody Wise made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.***

IV. Fundraising Comparison

Vice President of Institutional Advancement JJ Wedgworth presented a three-year fiscal year fundraising comparison beginning with 2021/2022 and ending with 2023/2024. The fundraising total for 2023/2024 was \$3,251,594; \$6,516,191 was raised during 2022/2023, which included an anonymous planned property gift valued at \$3 million; and \$5,573,604 was raised during 2021/2022. Of the \$3,251,594 raised during 2023/2024, 32% was for athletics, 27% for scholarships, 19% for facilities, 16% for programs, 5% for the annual fund, and 1% for traditions. The following gift types and amounts were reported: \$2,699,511 cash; \$447,420 pledges; \$53,534 gifts-in-kind; \$50,000 planned/estate gifts; and \$1,130 stocks/property.

V. Department Updates

A. Development

Dr. Wedgworth reviewed fundraising project goals for Fiscal Year 2024, including \$4.7 million for the football locker room renovation at Homer Field House (multi-year project); \$1.8 million for the turf at Tartt Field (multi-year project); \$500,000 for scholarships; \$75,000 for the renovation of facilities utilized by the College of Liberal Arts (COLA); and \$50,000 for UWA's University Research Symposium (URS). Dr. Wedgworth was pleased to report progress toward the goals as follows as of October 31, 2024: \$1,143,900 for the football locker room project; \$804,000 for the baseball turf; \$717,085 for scholarships; \$76,700 for COLA facilities; and \$26,854 for the URS.

Major gift fundraising priorities for 2025 will include a biology lab renovation (\$75,000), a practice tower for the UWA Band (\$60,000), and an international unity garden (\$40,500).

Dr. Wedgworth shared that the investment portfolio for the UWA Foundation was performing impressively, noting a balance of \$9.3 million as of September 30, 2024, compared to \$7.5 million as of September 30, 2023.

B. Alumni

As part of the Office of Alumni Affairs' dedication to enhancing the engagement and connection of all alums and friends of the University, several chapter events were held throughout 2024, including a baseball gathering and an awards banquet for the Society of the Golden Key and National Alumni Association in April (Sumter), events at Ezell's Fish Camp (Choctaw and Marengo) and the Bluegill Restaurant (Baldwin and Mobile) in May, a Birmingham Barons baseball event in August, and homecoming in October. Homecoming was an overall success, with record numbers attending the alumni party and football tailgate.

C. Strategic Communications

The focus areas for strategic communications include marketing and advertising, media relations, news stories and spotlights, official social media channels, photography, web services, and emergency and executive communications for the University. Over 34,000 copies of the Spring 2024 edition of the *UWA Today* magazine have been distributed; the magazine is published annually at the end of each spring semester and is available in print and digital formats.

D. Sponsored Programs, Research, and Outreach

Dr. Wedgworth presented a two-year fiscal year overview and comparison regarding contracts and grants. For 2023/2024, there have been 45 submissions, including 16 new awards, resulting in 34 active contracts and grants; total funding of \$6.5 million has been received, of which \$1.2 million went directly to students. For 2022/2023, there were 36 submissions, including 15 new awards, resulting in 24 active contracts and grants; total funding was \$6.6 million, of which \$1.4 million went directly to students. Additionally, approximately \$11 million in grant proposals are pending announcement.

E. UWA Cahaba Biodiversity Center

During 2024, the UWA Cahaba Biodiversity Center hosted approximately 600 visitors, including researchers and students. External grant funding of \$142,791 has been awarded to the center, and over \$81,500 in donations and revenue has been received; in addition, \$250,000 was received through appropriations from the State for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. A shop building, funded by the Holle Family Foundation, has been added to the property, and the center has been enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program through the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Terry

**The University of West Alabama
Board of Trustees
Facilities Committee
Bell Conference Center**

**December 2, 2024 – 9:00 a.m., or immediately following the conclusion of the
Athletic Committee Meeting**

I. Call to Order

Mr. Joseph Brown called the meeting to order and requested Ms. Terry to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

Committee members attending were Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Tom Perry, and Mr. Victor Vernon. Ms. Terry announced that a quorum was present. Also attending were Ms. Jennifer Agee, Mr. Chris Egbert, Mr. Randy Hillman, Mr. Mike Kendrick, Mr. Matthew Lavender, Mr. Michael Maddox, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, Dr. Ken Tucker, Ms. Jody Wise, and Ms. Toni Terry recording minutes.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2024

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. *Mr. Jerry Groce made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Tom Perry seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.*

IV. Project Updates

Physical Plant Director Chris Egbert provided the following project updates:

A. Foust Hall

Seay, Seay & Litchfield Architects are handling this \$2.2 million project. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2024. This project will include new windows, finishes, fire alarms, office space reconfiguration, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning replacement. Completion is anticipated by July 2025.

B. Student Union and Recreation Center

McKee and Associates Architects will be handling the Student Union and Recreation Center project at an estimated cost of \$14 million. The design phase is underway, focusing on the potential for this project to be a flagship for UWA relative to student recruitment and retention. This project should bid by February 2025 and include a new gymnasium, walking track, food court, swimming pool, and new finishes. This project is estimated to be completed by Fall 2026.

C. Homer Field House Addition

PH&J Architects is handling this \$4.7 million project, which is estimated to begin in mid-December 2024 and be completed by December 2025. This project will include an expanded locker room, renovations to the existing meeting rooms, a new recruiting room with a glass wall overlooking the field, and a balcony.

D. Alabama Women's Hall of Fame

McKee and Associates Architects will be handling the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame project at an estimated cost of \$300,000. A site survey has been completed, and the conceptual design has been approved to showcase bronze plaques in honor of the enshrinees. This project should start in April 2025 and be completed by September 2025.

E. UWA Amphitheater

Ward Scott Morris Architecture handled the amphitheater project. A ribbon-cutting was held on October 3, 2024, and an inaugural concert was held on October 5, 2024.

F. Black Belt Development Center

The University worked with PH&J Architects to handle this \$700,000 project in-house. New restrooms and windows have been added, as well as a complete renovation of the second floor and a partial renovation of the first floor to include nine new offices, a kitchenette, and a large conference room. This project passed the final inspection on November 20, 2024, and a ribbon-cutting is scheduled for December 5, 2024.

G. Tartt Field Turf

McKee and Associates Architects handled the \$1.8 million turf project at Tartt Field, which was

completed in October 2024. This project included new artificial turf, field lighting, backstop padding, netting, and an outfield ChampionWall®. In addition, logos and a new scoreboard will be forthcoming.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Tom Perry made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Hal Bloom seconded, and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Terry