**The University of West Alabama**
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**
**Bell Conference Center**
**Livingston, Alabama**
**March 3, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Hal Bloom called the meeting to order and requested that Ms. Edmonds 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. Victor Vernon, and Ms. Jody Wise. Ms. Edmonds announced that a quorum was present.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2024**

Mr. Bloom asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2024, meeting. Ms. Jody Wise made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Joseph Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

**V. Academic Affairs Committee**

The committee, chaired by Mr. Jerry Groce, approved minutes from the March 4, 2024, meeting. Provost Dr. Tina N. Jones presented updates on accreditations (COARC, ABET, CACREP, SACSCOC), noting UWA was reaffirmed with one finding, which has since been resolved. She also shared updates on Julia Tutwiler Library improvements, the establishment of the College of Nursing, a 96.97% NCLEX pass rate, and various initiatives related to institutional effectiveness, economic and workforce development. Honors included three Golden Key inductees and two new professor emeritus designees. Upcoming events were announced.

**VI. Student Affairs Committee**

Chaired by Ms. Jody Wise, the committee approved minutes from the meetings held on September 11, 2023, and March 4, 2024. Dr. Haab presented enrollment updates showing significant growth in both on-campus and online student populations for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Discussion included UWA’s potential loss of Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) status due to its growing online enrollment. New initiatives such as the Caring Campus Grant, retention scholarships, and Slate implementation were highlighted, along with goals to improve enrollment, student support services, and international student engagement.

**VII. Facilities Committee**

Chaired by Mr. Joseph Brown, the committee approved minutes from the September 9, 2024, meeting. Physical Plant Director Chris Egbert provided updates on several campus improvement projects, including Foust Hall, Homer Field House Addition, Land Hall, Student Union Building, and the Alabama Women’s Hall of Fame. All projects are progressing on schedule, with anticipated completion dates ranging from May to December 2025.

**VIII. Finance Committee**

Chaired by Mr. Matthew Lavender, the committee approved the minutes from the December 2, 2025, meeting. Vice President of Financial Affairs, Mr. Beard, presented the Quarterly Financial Report for Q1-FY2025. Mr. Lavender noted that while enrollment and revenue have increased, expenses have also risen. The committee focused on compliance with the FTC’s GLBA Safeguards Rule, including the implementation of the Written Information Security Program (WISP). Key cybersecurity and regulatory milestones were reviewed, including risk assessments, third-party vendor management, incident response planning, and staff training. The committee also reviewed UWA’s obligations under FERPA, GLBA, HIPAA, and the Alabama Records Disposition Authority (RDA).

**IX. Report from the University President**

Dr. Todd Fritch began his report by thanking the Board, university faculty and staff, and the community for their support during his first few months as president. He shared that he has been actively engaging with the campus by visiting departments and touring facilities.
Dr. Fritch announced that the Office of Communication and Marketing has been moved to report directly to the Office of the President. This strategic shift aims to enhance marketing, communications, brand consistency, and brand integrity. He also presented a list of events and activities he has completed since assuming office, highlighting weekly meetings with the President’s Cabinet and monthly meetings with the President’s Council. Please see list below.

**President’s Events & Activities**

1/8/25 Council of Chairs meeting

1/9/25 New Student/Parent Orientation Welcome

1/9/25 The UCS Hunt Dinner & Live Auction

1/11/25 UWA Women’s & Men’s Basketball

1/14/25 Academic Leadership Council meeting

1/15/25 Caring Campus Student Welcome Back Event (Served Hot Chocolate)

1/16/25 Meeting w/Brock Tidwell from Regions Bank

1/16/25 Toured Campus Facilities (SUB, Land, Foust and Brock Halls)

1/16/25 OnMed Care Station Ribbon Cutting (Gainesville)

1/17/25 Attended Funeral for Local Community Leader (Donna Dial)

1/21/25 GSC Board of Directors meeting

1/23/25 Strategic Planning Committee meeting

1/24/25 UWA Baseball Grand Slam Dinner

1/28/25 EDAA Conference Governor’s Luncheon (Montgomery)

1/29/25 Lunch w/Dr. Tucker

1/29/25 Chinese New Year’s Celebration (Student Activities Committee)

1/30/25 Meeting w/Trellis Company (Student Success & Enrollment Management)

1/30/25 Golden Key and Alumni Achievement Awards Banquet

1/31/25 Meeting w/Joseph Brown & Senator Singleton (Tuscaloosa)

1/31/25 UWA Baseball (Threw out the First Pitch)

2/1/25 UWA Women’s and Men’s Basketball

2/2/25 UWA Baseball

2/3/25 Nursing Classroom Visit (Listen & Learn)

2/3/25 Alabama Women’s Hall of Fame meeting

2/4/25 UWA Baseball

2/5/25 UWA Library Tour (Listen & Learn)

2/5/25 UWA Student Government Association (SGA) meeting (Listen & Learn)

2/5/25 Meeting w/Kellie Wolfe from Senator Katie Britt’s office

2/6/25 Meeting w/Teirdre Owens from Congresswoman Sewell’s Office

2/6/25 Meeting w/Mike Raita from Senator Tommy Tuberville’s Office

2/6/25 Meeting w/Shenyang Normal University (3+0 & 4+0 programs)

2/6/25 Meeting with IDA & Sumter County Commission Chair (Port of Epes Rail Spur project)

2/6/25 Hosted Dinner at the President’s House (President’s Cabinet & Spouses)

2/7/25 Hosted UWA Press Conference & Community Reception (Coach Cochran Announcement)

2/10/25 Nursing Classroom Visit (Listen & Learn)

2/10/25 Hosted Brunch w/UWA Students & Higher Education Partnership (Gordon Stone)

2/10/25 Livingston City Council Meeting

2/12/25 Meeting w/Garrett Jemison from Butler Snow LLP (Washington, DC)

2/12/25 Meeting w/Congressman Dale Strong (Washington, DC)

2/12/25 Meeting w/Senator Tommy Tuberville (Washington, DC)

2/12/25 Meeting w/Senator Katie Britt (Washington, DC)

2/12/25 Meeting w/Congresswoman Terri Sewell (Washington, DC)

2/12/25 Meeting w/Congressman Shomari Figures (Washington, DC)

2/13/25 UWA Women’s & Men’s Basketball

2/15/25 UWA Women’s & Men’s Basketball

2/17/25 Pharmacology Classroom Visit (Listen & Learn)

2/18/25 Meeting w/OutRival (AI-based Student Recruitment Company)

2/18/25 Live Interview on WTOK (Meridian, MS)

2/19/25 “Lunch with Leaders” at the UWA Cafeteria with Adonis Williams (SGA President) and Byron Thetford (Dean of Students)

2/19/25 Tour of UWA Residence Halls

2/19/25 UWA Wind Ensemble Performance

2/20/25 Meeting w/Logan McCoy (Director of Baptist Campus Ministry)

2/20/25 Meeting w/Shuma Sports for Athletic Marketing (Keith Ferrell and Bart Johnson)

2/21/25 History Classroom Visit (Listen & Learn)

2/21/25 Meeting w/Matt Wilson (GSC Commissioner) re: Football Conference Membership

2/21/25 SWAG Friday Give-away Event w/Student Government Association

2/21/25 Meeting w/Ben Chester from Coursedog (Academic Operations/Student Success Software Company)

2/21/25 Meeting w/Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences (Rob Pearson & Kirk Stephens)

2/21/25 UWA Softball

2/22/25 UWA Softball

2/22/25 City of Livingston Mardi Gras Celebration

2/24/25 Signed Partnership Agreement with Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)

2/25/25 Meetings w/ Dax Swatek, Sommer Vaughn, Philip Bryan (Montgomery)

2/25/25 Meeting w/Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth (Montgomery)

2/25/25 Meeting w/State Finance Director Bill Poole (Montgomery)

2/25/25 Meeting w/House Majority Leader Scott Stadthagen (Montgomery)

2/25/25 Meeting w/Chairman Arthur Orr (Montgomery)

2/25/25 Meeting w/Chairman Danny Garrett (Montgomery)

2/26/225 Meeting w/Hal Bloom (Montgomery)

2/26/25 Meeting w/Joseph Brown (Livingston)

2/26/25 Meeting w/UWA Student Clubs & Organizations Presidents

2/27/25 Meeting w/UNA President Kitts

2/27/25 Meeting w/Mark Broadman re: ASHS President Selection

2/27/25 UWA Women’s & Men’s Basketball

2/28/25 Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences Board Meeting

2/28/25 Meeting w/Kirk Stephens re: ASHA Residence Halls at UWA

3/1/25 UWA Baseball

**X. Report from the Board President**

**Update from the Nominating Committee for Board President**
Mr. Tom Perry reported that the Nominating Committee—comprised of Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Scott Stadthagen, and Ms. Jody Wise—met and recommended Mr. Joseph Brown as the next Board President. Ms. Wise made a motion to accept the recommendation; Mr. Groce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

**XI. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**XII. Adjournment**

Ms. Jody Wise made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Michael Maddox seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**
**Mary Grace Edmonds**