

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
December 1, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes for September 8, 2008, Meeting
- V. Report of the Board President (Mrs. Margaret Lovett)
A.
- VI. Report of Executive Committee (Mrs. Margaret Lovett)
- VII. Report of Athletic Committee (Mr. Terry Bunn)
- VIII. Report of Academic Programs Committee (Ms. Becky Lewis)
- IX. Student Government Report (Ms. Hannah Meherg)
- X. Report from University Provost (Dr. David Taylor)
- XI. Report from University President (Dr. Richard Holland)
- XII. Adjourn

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA
Bell Conference Center
September 8, 2008, 10:30 a.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Margaret Lovett, President *pro tem*, called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Tom Ballow, Secretary, called the roll. Attending were: Mrs. Jean Anderson, Mr. Tom Ballow, Mr. Terry Bunn, Mrs. Lena Hardaway, Mrs. Becky Lewis, Mrs. Margaret Lovett, Mr. John Northcutt, Mr. Willie O'Neil, Mr. Alex Saad, and Mr. Thed Spree. Trustees not attending were: Dr. Louise Nolen and Mr. John Smith.

Mr. Ballow announced that a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Lovett said that she would like to amend the Agenda to add the Regions Bank presentation. Mr. Saad made a motion to amend the agenda, Mr. Northcutt seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. She turned the presentation over to Dr. Holland, who said that Regions Bank, who has a long relationship with the University, has made a significant contribution to the Capital Campaign. Dr. Holland asked Mr. Ed McCurdy and Mr. Fred Walburn, both from

Regions Bank, Dr. Ken Tucker, and Mr. Clemit Spruiell to come forward for this presentation.

Mr. McCurdy said Regions has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with UWA and they are happy to make the presentation of \$150,000 today to the Capital Campaign to be used by the Center for the Study of the Black Belt.

Dr. Holland expressed the appreciation of the University for this donation, which will be paid over a five-year period.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 2, 2008, MEETING

Mrs. Lovett asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Spree made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Mr. Ballow seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

V. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

A. Introduction of New Trustees

Mrs. Lovett introduced the new trustees – Mrs. Jean Anderson, from Montgomery, who has roots in Sumter County, Mrs. Becky Lewis, from Auburn, and Rev. Willie O’Neil, from the Birmingham area.

B. Board and Committee Meetings for 2008-2009

Mrs. Lovett asked that the Board approve the schedule in the binder for the 2008-2009 meetings. Mr. Ballow made a motion to

approve the schedule, Mr. Saad seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

C. Standing Committees for 2007-2010

Mrs. Lovett also indicated that a copy of the Standing Committees for 2007-2010 is included in the binders. She encouraged each member to attend the committee meetings, of which they are members.

D. Report from Ad-hoc Committee on the Evaluation of the President

Mrs. Lovett said the evaluation of the President is an annual process and she asked Mr. Northcutt to chair the committee for the evaluation. She also thanked Mrs. Hardaway and Mr. Spree for serving, as well.

Mr. Northcutt reported that a an assessment form was mailed to all members of the Board, and the instrument addressed all areas of the President's service. He said after feedback from the other members of the Board and discussion with the Committee members, he was happy to report that Dr. Holland received excellent and outstanding remarks. Mr. Northcutt said this was also the year that the President's contract came up for renewal and the Ad-hoc Committee recommends that the contract of Dr. Holland be extended to October 1, 2014. Mr. Saad seconded the motion, and the vote was nine ayes and one nay to the motion. The motion was approved.

VI. REPORT OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Saad, Chair, reported that they met today and acted on several items. He said the Committee recommends to move forward with the Rodeo Arena project in phases and to seek funding for the project that is estimated to cost \$4.1 million. Mr. Spree provided a second to the recommendation by the Facilities Committee, and it was approved.

Mr. Saad reported that the Baptist Campus Ministries building was recently purchased by the University and it will now house the Center for the Study of the Black Belt and the University Honors Program. He said the Committee is making a recommendation to name the facility after Mrs. Kelly Hester Land, a former English professor at the University for many years. After a second by Mr. Saad, the motion was approved.

Mr. Saad said the University received a request from the City of Livingston to lease two acres in order to build a medical clinic to be run by medical professionals from Demopolis. He said the request is for acreage across from Rush Clinic; however, the Facilities Committee recommends that the acreage request be approved, not across from Rush, but to the southwest and same side of the street as Rush's, with the stipulation it will be the City's responsibility to extend the street past the new clinic and that it will have to be built within two years or

the lease will be null and void. Mr. Saad indicated this will protect the small frontage on the highway that the University currently owns. A second was provided by Mr. Spree, and the recommendation was approved. Mr. Northcutt abstained because of a family connection he has to the clinic that might provide the medical service.

Dr. Holland reported that he recently attended a meeting in Birmingham with representatives from Capstone, to discuss adjustments UWA want to make to their proposal. He said they have now agreed on an August 2010 opening, the rental rates, and plans are to move forward with this project by issuing bonds in March 2009. He said construction should begin by the first of May, 2009, and the facility should be open by August 1. Dr. Holland indicated the other issues of contingencies, etc. will be addressed tomorrow with UWA's attorney and that Capstone understands the University's position. He said the University needs the Board to authorize the administration to move forward with this project. Mr. Saad said this was the recommendation of the Facilities Committee and needed a second. Mr. Spree seconded the motion, and it was approved.

VII. REPORT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Tom Ballow, Chair, reported that the Institutional Advancement Committee met this morning and Mr. Clemit Spruiell introduced his staff. The Institutional Advancement staff reported on

their areas, such as alumni relations, public relations, marketing, and the Capital Campaign. He said the pledges have exceeded \$4 million for the Campaign, and hopes are to reach a goal of at least \$7 million by the end of this year.

VIII. STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

Ms. Hannah Meherg, President of the SGA, reported that all officers have been elected, and they represent about 30 student organizations on campus. She said elections are being held this week to elect senators to serve on the Student Government Association for 2008-2009. Ms. Meherg said the SGA is focusing on smaller activities for the students this year, especially for the weekends so the students who do not go home as much will have something to do.

IX. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Dr. David Taylor, Provost, reported that there are new academic programs under development. He said for the last two years, the University has been working on reinstating the Ed.S. degree in the College of Education. He said there is definitely a demand for this program and plans are to launch it within the year. He said the Elementary Education and the School Counseling degrees are expected to be approved by the State at their meeting in October, and Library Media will be approved as soon as another doctorally qualified faculty member in Library Media can be hired.

Dr. Taylor thanked Dr. Martha Hocutt, Dr. Tom DeVaney, Dr. Louis Smith, and Dr. Neil Snider for their hard work in getting these programs packaged and ready to be approved by the State.

Dr. Taylor reported that the University signed last week a dual degree program partnership in Engineering with the University of Alabama. He said in this program, a student will study at UWA for three years, transfer to Alabama and stay for two years, and study a number of engineering choices for their degree. Dr. Taylor said the University of Alabama is making a concerted effort to recruit students into their engineering program to meet the growing demand for engineers in the future in Alabama. He said one of their target areas is Sumter County. He said that, upon completion of the program, the student will receive a bachelor's degree from UWA in Mathematics and then will receive a bachelor's degree in a specified area of Engineering from UA. Dr. Taylor thanked Dr. Tom Rakovich for working very hard on developing this partnership.

Dr. Taylor said another program that is being developed is a separate degree in Social Work, which will lead to licensure. Without the licensure, UWA graduates could not practice as Social Workers. Dr. Taylor said UWA introduced social work as a track several years ago through the Sociology major and it rapidly became the most demanded majors in that department. He said the move to establish

this program stalled due to the tragic death of Dr. David Bowen, Chair of the Department of History and Social Sciences. Dr. Taylor said Social Work is strong enough now to be established as a separate degree and the University will move forward with a proposal to ACHE to put this program into active status.

Dr. Taylor said that UWA and Shelton State have enjoyed partnering successes in various programs in the past. He said several years ago they looked at developing another partnership in machine technology. He said Shelton State transferred to the UWA campus about \$250,000 worth of equipment to be used for work force training. Dr. Taylor indicated there have been delays in pursuing this training because of the turnover at Shelton State. He thanked Dr. Ken Tucker, who has been working with Shelton State on this effort.

Dr. Taylor reported that he and Dr. Wayne Bedford, Associate Dean in the College of Business, met with representatives from Shelton State and plans are to launch this program in January 2009. Dr. Taylor said the original plans were for UWA to be the host site and for Shelton State to run the program, recruit the students, but those plans have changed. He said the the new Chancellor of Secondary Schools wants UWA to keep and maintain the equipment, but they will identify qualified instructors, and UWA will contract the instructors and the students will be UWA students. UWA will incorporate machine

technology into its two-year maintenance technology program and the students will be trained on campus. He said one of the greatest opportunities is that UWA hopes to cultivate the dual enrollment program with area high schools so juniors and seniors can be identified who meet the qualifications, bring them into this program and provide them with the mechanical technology training so they will be prepared upon graduation to walk into the many job opportunities, such as with U. S. Steel Corporation, and other companies.

Dr. Taylor indicated a copy of the 2008-2009 Federal Appropriations Request Priorities is in the binders. He said this list was developed through dialogue within the Deans' Council and the President's Council and by his meetings with President Holland and Dr. Becky Harvard, Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs. He said the first item on the list of priorities is the renovation of Spieth and Selden Halls for academic and student support services.

Dr. Taylor reported that when the new housing suites facility is built, the old traditional dorms – Spieth and Selden – will no longer be used for student housing. Plans are to renovate the two dorms and move Nursing, Behavioral Sciences, Social Work, Psychology, and Criminal Justice into one of the dorms, as well as the student support units (Financial Aid, Tutorial Services, Career Services, Counseling

Center, Student Support, Upward Bound, and Housing). Dr. Taylor added that the *Livingston Press* office would also be moved.

Dr. Taylor said he recently had a walk through of Selden and Spieth Halls with the Architect, Freddie Linn, and Bob Holycross. He said Mr. Linn thinks the renovation work can be done on both dorms for approximately \$7 million.

Dr. Taylor said the University has been working with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood since 2007 to develop plans for a regional wellness and fitness center on campus. He said the programming/master plan was recently completed, and would consist of some 99,801 square feet in size, with a 5,000 seat arena, and would cost approximately \$25 million plus fees. Dr. Taylor said the President of the Board has announced her intention to appoint a committee of Trustees to help seek funding for the facility.

Dr. Taylor said UWA has made great strides in updating its technology, including the installation of Datatel and funding for VoIP, which will be completed in the current academic year. Dr. Taylor said there remains a critical need for a student one-card system, and this will become particularly important when the new residence hall opens. He said if the one-card system is not implemented, a student will have to carry three cards. Dr. Taylor said the estimated cost for the one-

card system is \$175,000 and it is not only a matter of convenience, but also a matter of security that this system is purchased.

Dr. Taylor reported that following the FCC's release of new bandwidth a year or more ago, the University applied for a license for bandwidth in this area with the intention of partnering with the University of Alabama program in Public Television and Radio so that UWA could carry NPR programming and produce local programming through its broadcast communications program. He said this would be put together by UWA students and they would cover local events of all types. Dr. Taylor said the University has encountered an obstacle because another agency applied for a license for the same coverage area, but he indicated UWA is in negotiations. He said if these negotiations prove fruitful, and UWA is granted a license, the cost for the facility would be approximately \$500,000. Dr. Taylor added that funding for such a facility is available through Public Telecommunications Facilities Program grants, which are generally accepted around March each year.

Dr. Taylor indicated that another handout in the binders was a list of new faculty and staff. He said a decision was made to revamp orientation for new faculty and establish a mentoring program. Dr. Taylor said each new faculty member has been assigned a veteran faculty member to serve as a mentor and their duties were listed in

the handout material at the general faculty meeting in August 2008. Dr. Taylor said he does see an encouraging trend of more new faculty deciding to live in the area instead of a more distant locale; however, he indicated there is a problem with housing being available in this area.

Dr. Taylor announced there are several searches for faculty members that will be launched this week for nine new faculty in the College of Education and six of these are online faculty members who will be brought to fulltime status. He said this needs to be done to retain better quality control and to ensure that accreditation standards are met.

Dr. Taylor said a search will be made again for a dean in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Mr. Spree commended Dr. Taylor on how he handled a recent matter with the grandparent of a UWA student.

X. REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dr. Holland reported that the enrollment figures for Fall 2008 are up to 4,249, but indicated there was a small decrease in undergraduate enrollment. He said this was due primarily to new admission standards being initiated this semester. He praised the faculty and staff for the improvement of the retention rate.

Dr. Holland said a new plan for payment of fees has also been implemented to have the students either pay or make arrangements to pay their tuition and fees before the first day of classes. Tuition Management System will be handling the deferred payment of fees for the students.

Dr. Holland said a copy of a sign was included in the binders that will be placed near the Boligee exit to welcome the U.S. Steel Corporation to the area. He said representatives from UWA have also been meeting with representatives from U.S. Steel to partnership with them in any way, possibly in work force training. He said the company will employ approximately 250 people.

Dr. Holland asked for the further endorsement of the Board to expand the international efforts of UWA. He said in the past year, a new English as a Second Language Laboratory has been established on campus with the help of Ms. Mary Pagliero. He said this lab is very important if UWA is going to recruit more international students.

Dr. Holland reported that in August, 2007, he and Dr. Ken Tucker were invited to China to explore possible opportunities to develop an exchange program with several institutions there. He said Dr. Taylor and Dr. Tucker have been working to establish a variety of cooperative education programs, faculty and student exchange programs, student

business internships, specialized certification and training programs, and also a dual degree program with an institution in China.

Dr. Holland said that UWA now has a contract with Guan Dong University of Finance, which includes a cooperative education program and particularly focuses on administrative training. Our students will also have the opportunity to go to their campus, and this will enable them to have more of a global prospective.

Dr. Holland reported that in July, UWA Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Yun Ho Kim, returned to his native home in South Korea and while there he talked with his alma mater about possibly establishing an exchange program with UWA, particularly an ESL program and ultimately a dual degree program.

Dr. Holland said Dr. Taylor, Ms. Pagliero, Dr. Ken Tucker, and Mr. Carey Moore met with Dr. Kim last week to discuss this further. He said this is possible and the administration gave Dr. Kim approval to move forward with this approach.

In August, Dr. Holland said he and Dr. Ken Tucker accompanied a team of consultants to Nicaragua to explore the possibilities of educational opportunities in Central America, and especially in Nicaragua. He said they discovered there are many areas that can be pursued, such as: ESL, computer science, environment and energy education, etc.

Dr. Holland said they met the Vice President, the Past President and the Acting U.S. Ambassador to that area. He said there are so many opportunities for UWA.

Dr. Holland announced that Dr. Taylor will begin a search for a director of the ESL program so that we can take advantage of the opportunities that are available in other countries. He said UWA is also going to hire a consultant to help with the effort in Nicaragua.

Dr. Holland asked for the continued support of the Board in reaching out to the international communities.

Dr. Holland thanked the Board for its vote of confidence in his annual evaluation. He said it is a pleasure to work with a functional Board, which makes all the difference in the world.

Mr. Saad asked how the new faculty positions would be funded. Dr. Holland said the ESL position would pay for itself. He said the program in other countries should also pay for itself, just like the online program. Dr. Holland said these costs would not be additional indebtedness for the University and will not involve State monies.

Mr. Saad made a motion that a resolution be prepared to support the University in exploring efforts in the international community; Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion and asked what the University's initial costs to fund such a program would be and the cost for hiring a consultant. Dr. Holland said the consultant would be hired and a

report on the costs, etc. would be presented at the next meeting of the Board in December. The motion was approved.

Mrs. Lovett asked for comments from the Trustees.

XI. ADJOURN

There was no other business and Mrs. Lovett adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ballow, Jr.
Secretary

Earlene Lindsey
Assistant Secretary