

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)
- 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. Report from University Provost (Dr. David Taylor)
  - A. Board of Trustees Annual ACHE Report
  - B. Five-year Board of Trustees Summary Report
  - C. Grant Activities
    - 1. Sponsored Programs Report
    - 2. BEST Grant
    - 3. University Research and Teaching Excellence Grants
  - D. 2009 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Lecture Series
  - E. 2009 Loraine McIlwain Bell Awards
- X. Report from University President (Dr. Richard Holland)
- XI. Adjourn

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December 1, 2008, 10:30 a.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Margaret Lovett, President *pro tem*, called the meeting to order and asked Mrs. Hardaway to give the invocation and remember Mr. Ballow, who was absent today because he was having surgery. After the invocation, Mrs. Earlene Lindsey was asked to call the roll.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

Mrs. Lindsey announced that a quorum was present.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Lovett said the Agenda was under Tab #1 in the binder and asked for a motion of approval. Mrs. Lewis moved to approve the Agenda; Mr. Spree seconded the motion; and the motion passed.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2008, MEETING**

Mrs. Lovett asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Saad made a motion to approve the minutes as

submitted, for the meeting held on September 8, 2008; Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion; and the minutes were approved.

**V. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Lovett said she only had a few things to discuss, and thanked everyone for attending. She encouraged the members of the Board to give Mr. Ballow a call or send him a card as she understood he either is in surgery this morning or has already had surgery. She also indicated that Mr. Northcutt has a family illness and asked that the Trustees keep both of these families in their thoughts and prayers.

**VI. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lovett reported that the Executive Committee met this morning and the Faculty Honorary Doctorate Committee recommended that the University present Father Richard L. Losch with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the Spring 2009 Commencement. Mrs. Lovett said the Executive Committee unanimously approved the recommendation and asked for a second. Mrs. Hardaway provided a second to the recommendation and it was approved.

**VII. REPORT OF THE ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Mr. Terry Bunn, Mr. Alex Saad served as Chair for the meeting. He reported that a quorum was not present at the meeting of the Athletic Committee. Mr. Saad said Mr. E. J. Brophy presented a report on all athletic programs for the past year and he

asked him to give a brief summary of his report at this meeting. Mr. Brophy said throughout the last year Athletics had some exciting things to happen, not only in competing, but also 39 athletes received awards for academic achievement at Honors Day last Spring. He said the coaches continue to stress to the athletes the importance of completing their degrees.

Mr. Brophy said some of the programs are winning a lot and some are still in the building stage, but indicated that morale is high and attitudes are good.

Mr. Saad concluded the report by saying Mr. Brophy's report to the Athletic Committee was very impressive.

#### **VIII. REPORT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lovett asked Mrs. Becky Lewis, chair of this Committee, to give the report. Mrs. Lewis said a lot of good things are happening on campus, and she asked Dr. Taylor (Provost) to add anything he deemed pertinent to her report when he presents the Provost's Report that is next on the Agenda.

Mrs. Lewis said the Instructional Leadership Program was redesigned at UWA and it received high commendations when the visiting team came to the campus for its review. She said the early prediction for the Ed.S. Program that will start in 2009 is that the enrollment will be high.

Mrs. Lewis said the International Programs Office and the Office of Sponsored Programs have all been very successful. She congratulated the faculty who have received research and teaching grants, as well as the faculty who have received a promotion or tenure for this year. Mrs. Lewis asked Dr. Taylor to speak about renovations of facilities, which time did not permit him to discuss in the Committee meeting earlier.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the Academic areas on campus are doing really well under the guidance of Dr. Taylor.

## **IX. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY PROVOST**

### ***A. Renovation of Spieth and Selden Halls***

Dr. David Taylor, Provost, said he would be pleased to expand on any of the items discussed or not discussed in the Committee meeting, as Mrs. Lewis mentioned. He said one item specifically was plans to renovate Spieth and Selden Halls to house some of the academic programs, as well as some of the student support offices.

Dr. Taylor said since the construction of the new dorm has been delayed from the Fall of 2009 to the Fall of 2010, and this has slowed down the renovation of Spieth and Selden. He said UWA has contracted with an architectural firm (Goodwyn, Cawood and Mills) to redesign those facilities and indicated that the delay is somewhat of a good thing because now the renovation work can be made a part of

the overall master plan for the University. He added that Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Architects, will develop a master plan for the University.

Dr. Taylor stated that the Division of Nursing will be housed in at least two floors of one of the dorms, and also plans are to house a new Department of Behavioral Sciences in one of the facilities. He said the Psychology, Sociology, Social Work and soon to be Criminal Justice Programs have grown to the extent that a decision was made to split the department from what was the Department of History and Social Sciences into two departments, resulting in the Department of Behavioral Sciences being added.

Dr. Taylor said plans also are to establish a one-stop student service center in one of the dorms. He said students will be able to go to this center for counseling, tutoring, financial aid, housing and most of their other needs. Dr. Taylor said the TRIO Program will be relocated there, too. He said some of the other academic programs that are literally bulging at the seams where they are currently located may also be moved into one of the dorms.

*B. Board of Trustees Annual ACHE Report*

Dr. Taylor noted to the Trustees they would have in their folders two documents and one is the Board of Trustees Report to Support the Implementation of the State Plan for Higher Education 2003-2004 to

2008-2009 in the areas of Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development.

*C. Five-year Board of Trustees Summary Report*

Dr. Taylor said this is the last year of the five year plan and a five-year summary report could be found in the binders.

*D. Grant Activities*

Dr. Taylor indicated a list of grant activities was included in the binder that was put together by Dr. Becky Harvard, Director of Sponsored Programs. He said the list is organized into three categories – 1) funded proposals, appropriations, and community partnerships; 2) grants pending; and 3) grant applications that are in the process of being developed and filed.

Dr. Taylor noted specifically that the first on the list of funded grants, Building the Educational Strategy of Tomorrow: The BEST Program (description of grant in binder) has been awarded for \$1,052,533. He said this grant was from the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to increase the number of African-Americans entering teacher education and becoming master teachers. Dr. Taylor indicated the money will be used to recruit from high schools in the six-county surrounding area and the students will be brought into the program, nurtured and paired with master teachers who will serve as mentors. He said these master teachers will be

brought in from throughout the State and he thanked Dr. Becky Harvard, Dr. Dianne Richardson, Dr. B. J. Kimbrough, and Dr. Martha Hocutt for their hard work in obtaining this grant.

Dr. Taylor noted on Page 3 of the list of grants that a BYWAYS grant was listed as pending. He said word was received the week before Thanksgiving that this grant has been funded for \$340,000 and will cover the Black Belt Nature and Heritage Trail, which is a 210 mile section of U.S. Highway 80 extending from Macon, Montgomery, Lowndes, Dallas, Perry, Marengo, Hale Counties through Sumter Alabama. He thanked Dr. Tina Jones, Executive Director of the Center for the Study of the Black Belt and Dean of Educational Outreach, and Dr. Harvard for their excellent work in obtaining this grant.

Dr. Taylor distributed a list of 23 teachers who have received University Research Grants or Teaching Excellence Grants for 2008-2009.

*E. 2009 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Lecture Series*

Dr. Taylor distributed a list of the Fulbright Scholars who UWA plans to invite to campus for the fifth lecture series. He said over the past few years each of the four undergraduate colleges have hosted a visiting Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Taylor noted each one comes to the campus, interacts with the students in each college, visits with faculty in their particular area of study, and then hold a lecture of general

interest to the community at large. This year, he said the scholars are from Russia, Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, and India. Dr. Taylor said as the dates are finalized, he will send a schedule to the members of the Board and encouraged each to attend some of the scheduled events.

*F. 2009 Loraine McIlwain Bell Awards*

Dr. Taylor said these awards were established in 1996 through an endowment by Mrs. Bell's daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and L. G. Cunningham. He said the Bell Conference Center is named in honor of Mrs. Loraine McIlwain Bell and her husband. Mrs. Bell was a graduate of UWA and taught for many years in the Choctaw County Public School System, and when her husband died, she took a correspondence course in nursing and later became a nurse at Hill Hospital in York where she later retired.

Dr. Taylor said the McIlwain Bell Award includes a plaque and a check for \$1,000 and is given each year in three categories – the Trustee Professor Award, the Professional Staff Excellence Award, and the Support Staff Excellence Award. He said the candidates are nominated by the University community, and then selected by a committee of their peers. Dr. Taylor said the winners of the staff awards are recognized at the General Meeting in the Fall Semester,

and the Trustee Professor Award is announced at the Fall Commencement.

Dr. Taylor indicated to Mrs. Lovett that the members of the Board have before them a proposed slate of recipients for their consideration.

Mr. Saad moved to approve the slate of award recipients, Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Dr. Taylor introduced Mrs. Dianne Colquitt, recipient of the Support Staff Excellence Award, Mrs. Pam Hall, recipient of the Professional Staff Excellence Award, and Mr. Micky Smith, recipient of the Trustee Professorship Award. All recipients expressed their deep appreciation for their award.

#### **X. REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

Dr. Holland congratulated all three winners of the McIlwain Bell Awards who were recognized today and noted they were very deserving.

##### **A. Enrollment**

Dr. Holland reported that the final enrollment for the Fall Semester 2008 was 4,888, which is an increase of 877 from the previous year. He noted there was an increase of 41 undergraduate students and 836 graduate students.

*B. Campus Radio Station*

Dr. Holland said in the Journalism program on campus, one part of it deals with broadcasting and now there are plans for a campus radio station, in addition to the Studio 96 cable television station. He said they will partner with the Center for Public Television and Radio and the University of Alabama, and UWA will serve as the West Alabama Bureau. Dr. Holland indicated programming will consist of National Public Radio, Black Belt Regional News produced by UWA, and the station will strengthen and expand the Journalism and Broadcast Programs, as well as enhance the television station. Dr. Holland added that this week the radio station should become a reality.

*C. Facilities Update*

Dr. Holland presented updates on facilities, as follows: the Office of Sponsored Programs leased the Choctaw Tavern from the Sumter County Historical Society; the residential suites are projected to be completed for the Fall 2010; and the addition to Hoover Hall is projected to be complete by Fall 2012. He said the former Baptist Campus Ministries Building that was recently purchased by the University is now named the Kelly Hester Land Hall and houses the Center for the Study of the Black Belt, the University Honors Program, and the International Programs.

Dr. Holland said that when funds are available, the proposed regional wellness and fitness center will house Athletic Training, the Fitness Center and the Student Health Clinic. He said it will also have an indoor walking track and house the Athletic Director, and the Basketball and Volleyball Coaches offices. Additionally, Dr. Holland said included in the facility would be a 4,500 seat arena and plans have been designed for the project.

Dr. Holland reported that plans are to enclose the rodeo arena, which would provide space for offices, classrooms, a snack bar, and restrooms. He said an advisory board has been appointed, with three members of the Board of Trustees serving on the committee, and members of the University, as well as some people from the community, and they have met twice. Dr. Holland said the Advisory Board has been logical about how this can be done, but it may take several years to raise the money.

#### *D. Renovations*

Dr. Holland said the renovations of the Cross Country Clubhouse are about 95% complete. He said work is still being done on moving the Safety and Security Office to the Wesley Foundation building. Dr. Holland indicated this facility will house the campus police, environmental health and safety office, dispatcher's office, and the office that handles the parking decals and tickets.

Dr. Holland reported that another project in the works is the Black Belt Museum and it will be located in the old McMillan Bank Building downtown on the square across from the Bored Well. He said he hopes the Museum will be open by February 2009, and then it can be expanded as time and money allow.

Dr. Holland reported that another project relating to the Center for the Study of the Black Belt is the Black Belt Gardens. He said the Campbell Building will be moved to the campus and noted that the house was removed from Whitfield, Alabama, built in 1901, and is a double dog trot cabin. He said the Alabama Historical and Preservation Society has agreed to do the architectural drawings for the refurbishing of the facility, and plans are to have it located in front of the Greenhouse by March 2009. Dr. Holland said it would be used for the Environmental Education Center.

Dr. Holland reported that the Athletic Department agreed to finance over a five-year period the installation of new bleachers on the home side of Pruitt Gymnasium. He said Mr. Brophy's staff raised the money for this project.

Dr. Holland reported that Clemit Spruiell has been working with Coach Wallace and E. J. Brophy to upgrade the Homer Fieldhouse and make it more attractive for the athletes. He said an alumnus has made a large commitment to assist in this project.

*E. Capital Campaign Update*

Dr. Holland reported that when the Capital Campaign began, a goal of \$15 million was set for a five-year period. He said the University is now eighteen months into the Campaign and he is happy to report that over \$7 million has been raised.

Mr. Saad said he is very happy that the University was able to obtain the dog trot cabin.

Mrs. Lovett said it is a privilege for all of the Trustees to serve on the Board of such a great institution, and the loyalty and respect of the University faculty and staff are definitely apparent to others, which encourages the Board to do a good job. She said it is very exciting to be a part of this place.

Mrs. Lovett asked each member of the Board for any comments. Several had encouraging words and extended a Merry Christmas and holiday greetings to everyone.

**XI. ADJOURN**

There was no other business and Mrs. Lovett adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Earlene Lindsey  
Assistant Secretary