

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
September 10, 2018, 11:00 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. Randy Hillman, Dr. John Killian, Mr. Justin Smith, Mr. Thed Spree, and Mr. Victor Vernon. Mrs. Beard announced there was not 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. Jerry Smith stated that the agenda could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2018

Mr. Jerry Smith stated that due to the lack of a quorum the minutes could not be approved.

V. Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Tim Edwards stated that the Academic Affairs Committee discussed five items including: UWA online enrollment, new academic programs from Spring 2017-Fall 2018 while highlighting the Ed.D. in Rural Education, International Programs, a grants and contracts summary, and new faculty hired. Online Enrollment recently hit a historic high, which surpasses the latest record which was achieved in 2011. The Ed. D. in Rural Education will provide a positive impact for the University.

VI. Report from the Student Affairs Committee

Dr. Killian reported that the Student Affairs Committee had a good meeting and highlighted the Student Affairs newsletter that is emailed to all Board members. On-campus enrollment is down slightly from the previous year, but is still a record number of students for UWA. The decline can be attributed to an overall, state-wide decline in graduation rates. There has been a discovery that the communication code for transfer students was changed and resulted in a decline in transfer student enrollment this year. This error has been fixed. Housing reported an increase in returning students living on campus. Move in day was a great success for the University.

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Dr. Killian for his passion towards the University and for serving on the board.

VII. Report from the Facilities Committee

Mr. Justin Smith gave the report of the Facilities Committee in Mrs. Jean Anderson's absence. He stated that Mr. Bobby Truelove presented an update on the Bunn Hall dorm project. The project is currently in the application phase for financing with the USDA. The location has been secured for the project and will be located behind the Student Union Building next to Hoover Apartments.

Mr. Justin Smith stated that the Energy Savings Project is ready to move forward and the Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, September 12th at 2:30 pm in Birmingham, Al to discuss this project. Mr. Truelove provided an overview of the project and the project costs with a maximum out-of-pocket expense to the University of \$1.6 million and a project total of approximately \$6.2 million. This includes the replacement of the HVAC system for Wallace Hall which would alone cost the University \$3.6 million, without the Energy Savings Project.

VIII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mr. Randy Hillman, serving as chair in the absence of Mrs. Sheila Cloud, reported that Mr. Lawson Edmonds reviewed the quarterly financials from 10/1/17 – 6/30/2018 which shows revenue over expenses of \$1,864,476.67. This figure is likely to change before year end.

Mr. Randy Hillman announced that UWA has changed to the private auditing firm of CDPA from the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. CDPA had a few minor findings, but were complimentary of management and the Board. The issues found have already been addressed by management.

IX. Report from the University President

Honorary Doctorate Nomination

Dr. Tucker announced that Mr. Steve Campora has been nominated for an honorary doctorate. This nomination has been unanimously approved by both Dean's Council and President's Council and is being presented today for the Board's consideration. Mr. Campora has been an exceedingly generous supporter of the University and is a renowned attorney in California practicing in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death cases arising from auto, trucking, and construction accidents, as well as product failures. He is a member of the California State Bar and the Federal Courts Bar. Mr. Campora has earned the distinction of one of the top 100 lawyers in California, Attorney of the Year, Top Consumer Attorney of the Year. He is a peer-reviewed, pre-eminent lawyer. Mr. Campora has purchased land in Sumter County and he and his wife plan to live in Livingston upon his retirement. UWA is very proud to bring Mr. Campora forward as a candidate for the Board's consideration. The resolution will be reviewed for approval at the Executive Committee meeting on September 12th due to the lack of a quorum at today's meeting.

SACSCOC

Dr. Tucker stated that SACSCOC has requested all universities in Alabama make certain changes to their bylaws so as to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest relating to the Governor acting as the chairman of the board of each state college or university of the State of Alabama. Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of SACSCOC, has requested the State Legislature enact legislation to change the Governor to an ex officio member.

Mr. Kendrick added that UWA's bylaws now reflect that the Board President is someone elected by the Board of Trustees from the current serving members, not the Governor of Alabama. Any changes to the state code will need to be done through the State Legislature. The Legislature chose not to consider this at the last session, so this will not be brought up for their consideration until April 2019.

University Charter School Update

Dr. Tucker provided an update on the University Charter School. The school opened officially on August 13, 2018 with an enrollment of over 300 students (Pre-K through 8th). The school is located in Lyon Hall on the campus of UWA and has thirty full-time faculty members, seven adjunct, and twenty part-time employees. 47% of the faculty are UWA alumni. During the first week of school, UCS received \$250,000 in grant funds from two sources and has been recognized as a Bicentennial School by Governor Ivey. The fall Athletic Programs have begun, including cross country, volleyball, and basketball. There is a tremendous amount of excitement surrounding this initiative and the Board is to be applauded for their foresight and courage to approve moving forward with this. This is truly a transformative effort and the support from community members, educators, etc. has been a huge. UCS has received national exposure and will be a model for similar rural areas to emulate.

New Athletic Director Announcement

Dr. Tucker introduced the new Athletic Director, Coach Bobby Wallace. He is well known to the UWA family, having served as head football coach from 2006 to 2010, achieving the school's first winning season in over a decade and earning a berth in the DII playoffs for the first time in 34 years. During his coaching career of 40 years, 28 years as a head coach in both DI and DII, his accomplishments are so extraordinary he has been referred to as a living legend in Division II. These accomplishments include: 3 consecutive Division II national championship (93, 94, 95); 11 times Division II football playoff participant; GSC and Division II Coach of the Quarter Century (1972-1997), member of the Division II football, GSC, Alabama Sports, and UNA Sports Hall of Fames; the winningest coach in GSC history (152 victories), National Coach of the Year three times, GSC Coach of the Year four times, and the only coach to win seven GSC Championships. Beyond his many athletic accomplishments, he is simply a good person, a man of character, integrity, and honesty who really cares about his coaches, staff, and student athletes. He is widely known, widely respected, and widely liked---a rare combination indeed. We are very fortunate to have someone of his national stature and impeccable reputation to lead our athletic program to even greater heights.

Coach Bobby Wallace thanked Dr. Tucker and the Board for the opportunity to return to the UWA family. He stated that he was going to stress three things: 1) academics 2) hard work and 3) to be a good person and treat others the way you want to be treated. He added that these three things are characteristics that all contribute to the student-athlete being a great product of UWA and allow them to be the best they can be upon their completion at this University.

X. Report from the Board President

UWA Foundation Board Report

Mr. Jerry Smith asked Dr. John Killian to update the Board on the latest Foundation Board meeting. Dr. Killian reported that the meeting was held on July 20th, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. The Foundation Board began business by passing resolutions of gratitude to those who had contributed generously to the University of West Alabama. These resolutions

evidence good work on part of the Development Department and the enthusiasm among contributors to the University of West Alabama.

President Ken Tucker gave a positive report on the success of the Athletics Department in the past year. Not only is the University of West Alabama successful in competitive sports, but the graduation rate of Student Athletes is steadily rising– higher than the national average and higher than the student body at-large. Furthermore, UWA Student Athletes completed 2,800 hours of community service in the past year.

President Tucker reported on the program to save energy costs. The savings from lower energy rates has provided funds for maintenance and capital improvements. The University has obtained low interest rates for any capital expenditure

Vice President Chris Thomason presented a “continually improving situation” Dr. Thomason reported \$ 6.5 million in annual scholarships.

The Investment Committee presented an excellent report on the potential of investment and stability of the University funds. Stuart Gannon of Highland Capital Brokerage presented a system of giving through life insurance policies.

The full Board voted to increase the requirement for Foundation Board members in giving and/or fund raising from \$1,000 annually to \$3,000 annually. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Jerry Smith introduced Mr. Jimmy Collins and asked him to make a few comments. Mr. Jimmy Collins updated the Board on the pledges through June 30, 2018. Mr. Collins added that Dr. Chris Thomason is in the process of beginning and organizing a capital campaign, and the dates that the campaign will begin will be announced soon. He announced that Mr. Danny Cooper and Mrs. Liza Howard have both retired from the Board. All open positions on the Foundation Board have been replaced with Mr. Gary Busby and Mr. Chris Hughes. The next Foundation Board meeting will be October 12th, 2018.

XI. New Business

Mr. Jerry Smith reappointed the Bylaws Committee to continue looking at the issues that were addressed last year, but were not submitted to the Legislature for approval. Mr. Smith reappointed Mr. Justin Smith as chair, Mr. Victor Vernon, and Mr. Hal Bloom, and added Mrs. Jody Campbell.

Mr. Justin Smith stated that there a few items that need to be addressed such as voting/meeting by phone and reviewing all Vice-Presidential hires. All changes proposed by the bylaws committee will be presented at the December Board meeting.

XII. Other Business

Mr. Jerry Smith announced that a meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on September 12, 2108 at The National Computer Forensics Institute in Birmingham, AL at 2:30 p.m.

XIII. Adjourn

No motion was made to adjourn due to the lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Beard

Assistant Secretary to the Board