

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
March 4, 2019 10:45 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: Mrs. Jean Anderson, Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mr. Terry Bunn, Mrs. Jody Campbell, Mrs. Sheila Cloud, Mr. Jerry Groce, Mr. Randy Hillman, Dr. John Killian, Mr. Justin Smith, Mr. Thed Spree, and Mr. Victor Vernon. Mrs. Beard announced there was 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. Hal Bloom moved to approve the Agenda; Mrs. Sheila Cloud seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.

Mr. Jerry Smith asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. ***Dr. John Killian made a motion to go into Executive Session for this purpose; Mr. Joseph Brown seconded the motion; and the motion passed to go into Executive Session at 10:46 a.m.*** The estimated time for Executive Session is fifteen minutes.

At 11:20 a.m., Mr. Jerry Groce made a motion to reconvene the regular Board of Trustees meeting; Mrs. Jean Anderson seconded the motion, and it was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2018

Mr. Jerry Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meetings held on December 3, 2018. There were none. ***Mr. Joseph Brown made a motion to approve the minutes; Mrs. Sheila Cloud seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.***

V. 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. Campus tours are up 17% in comparison to this time last year. The Admissions staff has been heavily recruiting students in neighboring states such Mississippi and the Florida panhandle visiting over 160 college fairs and 230 high school and community colleges. An application and enrollment comparison from Fall 2017-Fall 2019 was provided.

VI. Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Jerry Groce stated that Dr. Edwards reported on online enrollment, including The Learning House Partnership. This partnership is going extremely well with UWA showing the highest online enrollment (3,272 students) since 2011. UWA has recently added a new Ed.D. in Rural Education program with sixty candidates admitted to date. Multiple accrediting bodies have visited UWA recently and all went well. New faculty hires were reported, along with a promotion and tenure report.

VII. Report from the Facilities Committee

Mrs. Jean Anderson provided an overview of the report of the Facilities Committee. An update on the energy savings project was given and stated that the project began on February 18, 2019 and should be completed in eighteen months. The project includes new control systems to be added to some buildings in an effort to better monitor and control our HVAC systems and a total revamp of the HVAC in Wallace Hall. An update was also given on Bunn Hall. The

environmental impact study for this projects is complete and a copy of the report has been sent to the USDA. There were no issues found on the proposed building site. The financial feasibility study for this project is ongoing.

Mrs. Anderson stated that the McConnell House is in need of some updating. Mrs. Anderson would like to renovate the bathrooms and bring the kitchen up to date. This is one of the few guest facility options in Livingston and she feels that an update would allow the University to present the best image possible. In addition to updating the McConnell House, Mrs. Anderson would like to finish the President's Home project. ***Mrs. Anderson presented the motion that was approved in the Facilities Committee meeting to perform a feasibility study to determine the needed renovations for the McConnell House, to finish the renovations to the President's Home, present the results of this study at the June board meeting, and any money allocated for these projects will not exceed \$75,000. The motion carried.***

VIII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mrs. Sheila Cloud reported that the financial report given at the meeting was encouraging. It was reported that the current administration began its financial sustainability plan in 2017. Since that time, UWA has seen an increase in operating income of \$2.7 million. Currently, the university is keeping a close watch on operating expenses. The auditors are currently on campus and should have the audit completed by April 2019.

IX. Report from the University President

Honorary Doctorate Nomination

Dr. Tucker presented an honorary doctorate nominee. This nominee has been unanimously approved by both the Dean's Council and the President's Council. The nominee is Mr. Takashi Shinozuka, who is the Consul General for the Consulate of Japan for the Southeastern United States in Atlanta and is being nominated for a Doctor of Laws Honorary Degree. During Mr. Shinozuka's distinguished career, he has received numerous appointments to important positions such as First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar, First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in France, Director of the Second International Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Institute for Research Advancement and the Cabinet Office of Japan in Tokyo, and Vice Grand Master of Ceremonies for the Imperial Household. In January 2016, Mr. Shinozuka was appointed as the Consul General for the Consulate of Japan for the Southeastern United States in Atlanta, Georgia. He has helped create partnerships between the University and four Japanese universities and helped create participation for the University of West Alabama in the Japanese Outreach Initiative program. He has promoted trade, cultural relationships, and educational opportunities within Alabama and the Southeast U.S. ***On a motion by Mrs. Jean Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sheila Cloud the motion to approve Mr. Takashi Shinozuka's honorary Doctor of Laws degree was approved. The motion carried.***

Accountability Plan Update

At the request of the state legislature, the leaders of all of the state college and universities and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education have worked together to create a strategic vision for the future of higher education in the State of Alabama. A key component of that is the development of accountability measures. All representatives from the regional universities, like UWA, wanted to ensure that the scope and mission and student population will be taken into account when considering the accountability measures. UWA serves a distinct student population. The accountability metrics include governance, student success, academic programs, financial health and stability, and responsiveness to state and government needs. Most of the concerns and issues that were raised have been satisfactorily addressed.

Land Donation Opportunity

Dr. Tucker presented a land donation opportunity that could be used for both education and conservation purposes. This is a significant number of acres. This property has very unique plant and fish species. This property can be used as a class site and internship sites for conservation and environmental majors. It can also be used for retreats and training sites for conservation enterprises. A benefit sheet was provided to all board members. The property will be cost neutral, if not a potential revenue stream. Mr. Mike Kendrick is reviewing the agreement and will bring the finalized agreement in June.

UCS Update

Dr. Tucker presented a video that was shown on The Today Show that highlighted the University Charter School. In addition to the Today Show video, two videos that were done by students were shown.

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked each Board member for their foresight in making the Charter School a reality.

X. Report from the Board President

Mr. Jerry Smith introduced the new board member, Mrs. Jody Wise. Mrs. Wise then provided her background and her current information. She is currently living in Bay Minette, but grew up in Livingston and is an alumni of UWA. Her father was the first President pro tempore for Livingston University.

Presidential Evaluation Report/Renewal of Presidential Contract

Mr. Jerry Smith stated that all Board members had received a copy of the latest presidential evaluation. He then asked Mrs. Katie Beard to provide an overview of the presidential evaluation process. Mrs. Beard stated that both the academic and administrative side, which consists of the Dean's Council and President's Council, of the university were surveyed and asked approximately twenty questions covering subjects such as Financial Management, Fundraising, Strategy and Priorities, Relationships and Constituencies, Organization and Team, Leadership, and Future Considerations. Also included was an open-ended question asking for feedback on exceptional areas of Dr. Tucker's leadership and areas that may require more attention. Dr. Tucker averaged 90% or better in all areas polled and we received a 94% response rate from the members polled.

Mr. Jerry Smith presented a resolution to authorize the Board of Trustees to execute a new employment contract where Dr. Tucker will remain President of the University of West Alabama until December 31, 2024. ***A motion was made to approve Dr. Tucker's employment contract as presented by Dr. John Killian and seconded by Mr. Joseph Brown. The motion carried.***

Both Mr. Jerry Smith and Mr. Terry Bunn recognized Dr. Tucker for his leadership of the University of West Alabama. Dr. Tucker added that he look forward to continuing to work with the Board and appreciates the Board's leadership and support.

Foundation Board Report

Dr. John Killian presented a report on the UWA Foundation Board. Mr. Jimmy Collins reported that the Foundation Board's investment portfolio has increased in value and that Dr. Thomason is working on fundraising for athletic facilities, Mr. Collins also recognized Dr. Tucker's contribution to this community and what an impact that UWA continues to make in Sumter County.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Jerry Smith appointed a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers to bring to the June meeting. The committee will consist of Mr. Hal Bloom, Chair; Mr. Terry Bunn; Mrs. Jean Anderson; and Mr. Jerry Groce.

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIII. Adjourn

Mr. Jerry Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Mr. Jerry Groce moved to adjourn; Mrs. Sheila Cloud seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Beard

Assistant Secretary to the Board