

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
March 5, 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: Mrs. Jean Anderson, Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Joseph Brown, 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

Dr. John Killian moved to approve the Agenda; Mrs. Sheila Cloud seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2017

Mr. Jerry Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meeting held on December 1, 2017. There were none. ***Dr. John Killian 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. John Killian stated that Mr. Steve Smith, UWA Financial Aid Director, provided the committee with an excellent report on Financial Aid and Admissions. Dr. Killian asked all Board members to review their newsletter that is published and mailed monthly from Student Affairs. The staff members in the Student Affairs area are doing a great job and several staff changes have occurred throughout the year. He stated significant progress has been made in admissions and enrollment with potential student contacts increasing 13.5%. The UWA recruitment staff has attended 150 college fairs and 120 schools throughout Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida panhandle. Both applications and acceptances to UWA have increased in comparison to last year. UWA is continuing to see success with Royal & Co. and The Learning House partnerships.

VI. Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Groce reported that five Tutwiler Scholars were presented at the Committee meeting and included Andrew Liveoak, Frankie Malveo, Jr., Baleigh Marchant, Nick Noland, and Joy Richardson. Dr. Edwards provided an Online Enrollment and The Learning House Update, with online enrollment increasing by 916 students since partnering with The Learning House. A listing of all new programs being presented to SACSCOC or awaiting SACSCOC approval was given, along with the announcement that the Ed. D. in Rural Education has been unanimously approved by ACHE, but is still awaiting SACSCOC approval. Dr. Edwards also recognized all faculty that are retiring from UWA.

VII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mrs. Sheila Cloud stated that Mr. Edmonds provided a thorough financial update and quarterly report. The Finance and Facilities Committees were then combined to provide an overview of the feasibility of a new dorm on the campus of UWA. Mrs. Cloud commended Lawson Edmonds, Jeremy Sheffield, Luther Gremmels, Chris Egbert, Bobby Truelove, and Robert Upchurch for their hard work on this project. In addition to the three options for financing 1) private financing, 2) private development, and 3) bond issue, the group also provided a needs assessment for the project.

Mrs. Cloud presented a motion from the conjoined Finance and Facilities Committees for the dorm project team to continue with the application process with the USDA for funding for the new dorm project and was seconded by Mr. Hal Bloom. The motion carried. After the application is completed, the committee will then request Board approval to submit the application to the USDA.

Mrs. Cloud presented a motion from the conjoined Finance and Facilities Committee for the \$45,000 needed for the environmental impact study and the feasibility study as part of the USDA application process and a second was made by Mr. Jerry Groce. The motion carried.

VIII. Report from the Facilities Committee

Mrs. Jean Anderson provided an update on the Bridges Auditorium and the Energy Savings Project.

Bridges Auditorium: The demolition portion of this project is complete. There are walls and doors being relocated, ongoing electrical work, as well as installation of the ceiling grid. The finishes have been selected for wall color, floor covering, and fabric seating. We estimate this project to be complete in mid-April.

Energy Savings project: Schneider Electric began the investment audit in January 2018. After our initial meeting, Schneider's people have audited the majority of our facilities, which includes monitoring usage of lighting, HVAC, water and electricity. Schneider will compile all of the information from the audit and schedule a midterm meeting review with UWA. The proposed time line is as follows:

- 3/22/18-3/23/18: Mid- term Project Review Meeting
- 4/3/18-4/5/18: Mechanical Contractor Walkthrough (Wallace Hall)
- 5/9/18-5/11/18: Final Project Report Presentation to UWA
- UWA Legal Review of the Contract (3-4 weeks)
- 6/4/18 Present to the UWA Board of Trustees' for Approval

IX. Report from the Presidential Evaluation Committee

Mr. Jerry Groce, Chairman of the Presidential Evaluation Committee, thanked the committee which consisted of Dr. John Killian and Mr. Thed Spree for their contributions. He also thanked Mrs. Beard for organizing and assembling the data from the group surveyed. With this evaluation, the committee decided to survey not only the Board of Trustees members, but also constituencies within the UWA community, such as community leaders, UWA students, UWA faculty/staff, and UWA Foundation Board members. This constituency polled was selected to ensure that UWA and its President were meeting the needs within the community. The survey results were incredibly encouraging and found that Dr. Tucker was performing at an excellent or above average level. The evaluation survey asked questions concerning Dr. Tucker's performance in the following areas:

Leadership – Does he demonstrate a personal sense of responsibility and conduct, encourage involvement and input from all constituencies, and provide leadership in developing, communicating, and implementing institutional goals and objectives.

Management – Does he effectively execute and implement the policies and procedures adopted by the administration and Board; operate the University in a fiscally sound manner; attract and retain qualified students; build and develops an effective management team; work effectively to maintain high morale; and allocate resources in a fair, objective, and consistent manner.

Interpersonal skills and relationships – Does he develop and maintain positive, effective relationships with faculty, staff, and alumni; is accessible to and involved with the community, business, industry, and other educational institutions; is a strong and persistent advocate for the institution in its relations with state and local government, the private sector, and the public.

Communication – Does he effectively serve as the spokesperson for the institution, communicate successfully with people at all levels of the internal and external community; effectively utilize media to further institutional objectives when appropriate; and communicate openly and honestly with people.

Fundraising - Does he work with businesses, corporations, and individuals to create new revenue sources for the University; work to increase funds generated by grants and contracts; and effectively raise funds for the University and develop alumni support.

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Mr. Jerry Groce for leading the Presidential Evaluation Committee. He also thanked Dr. John Killian and Mr. Thed Spree for their hard work. Mr. Smith stated that he is confident that Dr. Ken Tucker is doing an outstanding job and the Board appreciates his leadership. Dr. Ken Tucker thanked Mr. Jerry Groce for his professionalism and for his inclusivity and diversity in those polled for the Presidential Evaluation. He stated that he appreciates the support and guidance of the Board of Trustees and believes the positive results of the Presidential Evaluation are from assembling a motivated and focused internal leadership team.

X. Report from the Workforce/Economic Development Committee

Mr. Joseph Brown, Chairman of the Workforce/Economic Development Committee, stated that it has been an exciting process to look at the efforts coming from UWA for Workforce/Economic Development. He commended Dr.

Tucker and his team for their hard work. UWA is currently leading the effort for this endeavor in the community. The committee is looking at how the established efforts can be enhanced. The first step was to form a Workforce Advisory Council comprised of leaders across the campus of UWA who have a hand in Workforce/Economic Development and is set-up as a round table style effort where ideas are able to flow. Several ideas and accomplishments have occurred because of the establishment of this committee: 1) The College to Career Pathway Grant, which was a total award of \$1.25 million, was an idea that was formed from the round-table discussions. 2) The grand opening of the Workforce Development Center was a large milestone for UWA and had a great turnout with members and leaders of business and industry participating. The event was heavily publicized by local and regional media outlets. 3) Livingston has been designated as an Alabama Community of Excellence and this is a huge accomplishment for this community as very few others exist in the State of Alabama. 4) The Economic Development Academy has been formed and allows local officials to identify their issues while assisting them with grant applications. 5) The Sumter County Renaissance Strategic Plan has been created to provide the foundation and framework for an economic renaissance in Sumter County that leads to job and population growth, new investment, renewed and sustained economic vitality, quality living for all citizens, and full participation in the global economy. The strategies include infrastructure and site selection, education and workforce development, livability, and leadership and civic engagement for Sumter County. The strategies use all areas of the community, including attracting business and industry and revitalizing downtown Livingston for existing businesses and new businesses. A final portion of the strategy would be to establish a county hospital. Most industries require a hospital to be within a certain mile radius of the business for liability purposes. Mr. Brown has met with the local hospital authority, the Industrial Board, and the County Commission to establish what the needs of the community are for healthcare. 6) A key component for attracting business and industry is acquiring broadband service. A rural technology summit will be hosted at UWA on April 13th. Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Mr. Joseph Brown for leading this effort for UWA and Sumter County.

XI. Report from the University President

The Learning House

Dr. Tucker introduced Mr. Todd Zipper President/CEO of The Learning House. UWA is delighted that he has come to share information with us today. The collaboration with TLH and UWA has been extremely successful and exceeded all expectations for the increase in enrollment and revenue. The UWA team and TLH team have come together and formed a partnership of motivated and passionate people, whose success speaks for itself.

Mr. Todd Zipper thanked the Board for electing to partner with The Learning House. The results of the partnership have greatly exceeded their expectations, which were very high. The staff at UWA has been easy to work with and flexible and innovative in their ideas for online learning. Mr. Zipper gave some background information on The Learning House. The Learning House's main goal is to achieve growth for the University, with the market that UWA can reach, the programs UWA can offer, and the revenue that can be generated. The Learning House has 35 employees dedicated to UWA with their company, in addition to the UWA support staff on campus. \$400,000 was invested in 2017 for marketing and this number will increase to \$2 million in 2018, with a TV commercial being released into the market and expanding marketing efforts to billboards, internet, etc. The goal is to expand the marketing footprint. January 2018 produced 8,200 leads and 3,600 applications for UWA. Spring 2017 showed 257 new student starts and Spring 2018 has 405 new student starts. Most of the current students enrolled in online programs are at the graduate level, but The Learning House is expecting large growth in the undergraduate areas. These marketing efforts are just starting. Over time as the enrollment grows, new faculty and staff will be needed to accommodate the increase to ensure retention is maintained.

Mr. Justin Smith thanked Mr. Zipper for coming to meet with the Board. He asked Mr. Zipper how he felt about the projections for enrollment in the future. Mr. Zipper expected 20% steady growth over the course of four years.

Dr. Tucker stated that UWA and The Learning House have made a cohesive and successful team.

Retired Faculty/Staff and Promoted and Tenured Faculty

Dr. Tucker asked Dr. Edwards to come forward to recognize the retired faculty and newly promoted and tenured faculty. Retirees:

- Manley Blackwell
- Mark Griffith
- Fred Myers
- Lynn Lashley
- Gerald Jones
- Andrea Minear

Promoted faculty:

- Dr. Gunnar Cazars
- Dr. Mark Davis

- Mr. Nick Davis
- Ms. Jennifer Harwell
- Dr. Pam Rochester
- Dr. Dana Rolison
- Dr. Ketia Shumaker
- Ms. Sharon Stipe

Tenured faculty:

- Dr. Debbie Hildreth
- Mr. Erik Larson
- Dr. Kelly Pivik
- Dr. Ed Snodgrass
- Dr. Celeste Wheat

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked the retirees for the years spent at UWA and stated he appreciated the job they did while at UWA.

XII. Report from the Board President

University Charter School

Mr. Jerry Smith introduced Mr. Micky Smith, chairman of the University Charter School Board. Mr. Micky Smith commended the UWA Board of Trustees for tackling the issue that has been a problem in Sumter County for some time. A problem that has kept our community divided, stunted economic growth, and contributed to a large population decline in the community. It is the goal of the University Charter School to begin to address one of the problems that has plagued this community for years, in granting the children of this community an innovative, inclusive, and inspiring school option. Mr. Micky Smith thanked Dr. Tucker and his administration and the faculty/staff of UWA for their support in this endeavor. He also thanked the people of the Sumter County community who have given their time, energy and money in order to see this school succeed. He stated the charter school will make a difference in this community.

Mr. Micky Smith introduced Dr. J.J. Wedgworth, head of schools for the University Charter School. Dr. Wedgworth has been one of the main driving forces behind the implementation of the University Charter School. Dr. Wedgworth gave an update on the University Charter School. She thanked the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve the community and improve this community for all its residents. A special thank you was given to the UWA Foundation and the office of Institutional Advancement for their efforts in raising the funds to make the start-up of the University Charter School possible. At the time of the last presentation, UCS was in the contract negotiation phase of the timeline, but have now moved into the planning phase for the upcoming school year. A contract signing event was hosted on campus with the Chairman of the Alabama Public Charter School, Mac Buttram, and his assistance Logan Searcy in attendance. The contract for UCS was granted in October 2017 and is valid for a five year term. The term begins on the first day of operation in August 2018. UCS will open with a grade structure of Pre-K – 8th grade and will add one grade per year until commencing in 2022-2023 as a Pre-K-12th grade school. The capacity has been set at 350 students. The pre-registration phase was completed for Sumter County residents in December 2017, and since the school was not at capacity, pre-registration was opened to out-of-county residents in January 2018. Currently, UCS is on track to meet the enrollment goal of 350 students. The Pre-K classroom is funded through a grant program organized by the Department of Early Childhood Education and UCS has been approved for one classroom, with a waiting list for an additional classroom. An application has been presented for this additional classroom and UCS should know by April-May 2018 if the classroom has been approved. The UCS Board has been selected and is meeting monthly now, but will transition to a quarterly meeting once school gets started. Mr. John Cameron has been hired as UCS principal and began officially in March 2018. He has served through all phases of primary and secondary public education, having most recently been Assistant Director of the Hale County Career Academy, where he was highly involved with the Region 3 Workforce Development Council. Positions have been posted for instructors, with many quality applicants. UCS has been awarded several grants, including \$150,000 from the Daniel Foundation, \$92,700 for the Pre-K classroom, \$31,000 from the ADECE for playground enhancement, and many additional applications are being submitted or prepared. An annual fund will be established to help sustain UCS throughout its duration. A \$2.5 million operating budget has been approved for the fiscal year. A facebook page and website have been established with updated information as posted as often as possible. Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Dr. Wedgworth and Mr. Smith for their dedication to this project.

Mr. Jerry Smith appointed Mr. Joseph Brown to fill Mr. Alex Saad's vacant position on the Finance Committee.

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Mr. Jimmy Collins, president of the UWA Foundation Board, for his attendance at the meeting today. Mr. Jimmy Collins reported that fundraising for the Foundation from October 2017-March 2018 has totaled \$1,347,000, which is \$543,000 ahead of the previous year. The Foundation Board appointed a committee to create a Board of Directors Expectations and Commitment to Serve policy. The Finance Committee has also created an endowment policy.

The policy will be recommended at the next meeting in April. Mr. Collins stated that he appreciated Dr. John Killian's attendance and participation as the liaison between the UWA Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board. Dr. Killian stated that he is extremely impressed with Mr. Collins and his leadership.

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked the committee that researched the feasibility of the dorm project and Mrs. Cloud for her leadership of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Jerry Smith presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Terry J. Bunn graduated from the University of West Alabama ("the University") in 1976; and WHEREAS subsequent to Mr. Bunn's graduation from the University, he has served in numerous capacities as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University from 1992 to the present time; and WHEREAS, during his long and distinguished service as a member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Bunn served as vice-president of the Board of Trustees from 1995 until 1998, as president of the Board of Trustees from 1998-2001, as chairman of the Athletic Committee from 2007 to 2010, as chairman of the Financial Affairs Committee from 2010 to 2013 and as president of the Board of Trustees from 2013 through 2016; and WHEREAS, in addition to Mr. Bunn's long and distinguished service as a member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Bunn and his family have made numerous contributions and gifts to the University to enhance the ability of the University to provide an exceptional education to its students; and WHEREAS, the University of West Alabama is currently in the process of authorizing the construction of a new dormitory to be located on the University campus; and WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Trustees to honor Mr. Bunn's long and distinguished service and career at the University by naming the newly constructed dormitory upon its completion as the Terry J. Bunn Hall. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the University of West Alabama Board of Trustees at a regular meeting called on Mach 5, 2018, a Quorum being present, as follows: 1. It is the desire of the Board of Trustees that, upon the completion of the newly constructed dormitory on the University campus, such dormitory shall be known as Terry J. Bunn Hall 2. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and shall be made a part of the official minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees. ***On a motion by Mr. Hal Bloom and a second by Mrs. Sheila Cloud the resolution was approved as presented. The motion carried.*** Mr. Jerry Smith said that he felt it was appropriate to honor Mr. Bunn with all that he has given to this University. Mr. Bunn sends his regrets on not attending the meeting, he is on a trip with his family.

XIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Adjourn

Dr. John Killian ended the meeting in prayer.

Mr. Jerry Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Mr. Victor Vernon moved to adjourn; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Beard

Assistant Secretary to the Board