

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**The University of West Alabama**  
**Bell Conference Center**  
**December 2, 2019 10:30 a.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Justin Smith, President *Pro Tempore*, called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Justin Smith asked Mrs. Beard to call the roll. Other than Mr. Justin Smith, members attending were: Mrs. Jean Anderson, Mr. Hal Bloom, Mr. Joseph Brown, Mrs. Sheila Cloud, Mr. Jerry Groce, Dr. John Killian, Mr. Jerry Smith, and Mr. Victor Vernon, Ms. Jody Wise, and Dr. Eric Mackey. 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. Justin Smith asked Dr. John Killian to open the meeting with a prayer.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Mrs. Sheila Cloud moved to approve the Agenda; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2019**

Mr. Justin Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meetings held on September 9, 2019. There were none. *Mr. Hal Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Jerry Smith seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.*

Mr. Justin Smith asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. *Mrs. Jean Anderson made a motion to go into Executive Session for this purpose; Mrs. Sheila Cloud seconded the motion; and the motion passed to go into Executive Session at 10:36 a.m.* The estimated time for Executive Session is fifteen minutes.

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*At 10:50 a.m., Mr. Jerry Smith made a motion to reconvene the regular Board of Trustees meeting; Mr. Victor Vernon seconded the motion, and it was approved.*

**V. Report from the Institutional Advancement Committee**

Mr. Jerry Smith, who was serving as chair in Mr. Randy Hillman's absence, reported that Dr. Chris Thomason presented fundraising numbers which show a positive trend in growth. Also discussed was the capital campaign preparation and the strategy that will be used to develop priorities for the projects and assigning a dollar amount to these projects. The President will have the final decision on which projects and the dollar amount to include in the testing. The feasibility study will look at the testing done, the projects to pursue, and what the optimal time is to begin the campaign. The Institutional Advancement area is fully staffed and ready to take on a capital campaign.

**VI. Report from the Athletic Committee**

Mr. Hal Bloom stated that Mr. Bobby Wallace provided an update on athletics. Mr. Wallace reported that graduation rates for our student athletes are reaching record highs for UWA and exceed the general student population graduation numbers. Mr. Wallace also updated the committee on all Fall Sports and all the new coaches that have been hired. Mr. Bloom stated that he felt like the Athletic Department is at an all-time high with Mr. Bobby Wallace as the athletic director.

**VII. Report from the Facilities Committee**

Mr. Joseph Brown provided an overview of the report of the Facilities Committee. An update on the energy savings project was given. The project is 96% complete and only small punch-list items remain. The McConnell House will begin renovation soon, with \$75,000 approved for that project (and the estimate showing a cost of \$68,300) which will be used to update the three bathrooms in the home. Mrs. Jean Anderson has done a fantastic job on this project and all plans and specifications have been completed.

Mr. Joseph Brown stated that Mr. Bobby Truelove presented three new projects for the Board's consideration. The first is the turf replacement in Tiger Stadium. The Tiger Stadium turf is 9 years old and is in need of replacement. UWA was very fortunate that the company that installed the turf came and did some repairs to ensure we could use the turf through the

remainder of football season this year. The estimated cost of this project is \$380,000.00. We propose to advertise for bids in January 2020. This project could start spring of 2020 and be completed before summer. The next project presented was the Tiger Stadium bleachers. The lower bleachers at Tiger Stadium have been all concrete for many years now and are not comfortable. We propose to cover the concrete seating with a product called perma-cap over perma-plank. This will be a metal frame bolted directly to the concrete with a vinyl cover over it for a smooth seating surface. Estimated cost for this project would be \$75,000.00. This project could be completed by the summer of 2020. The last project presented were renovations to Tiger Stadium. The last major renovation to Tiger Stadium was in the late 70's. We would like to ask for approval to investigate a stadium renovation and report back to the Facilities Committee at the March meeting. Mr. Truelove also presented the UCS Land Lease for the Board consideration and stated that the need for a new Charter School facility has prompted us to look for a possible location on university property. We believe the northeast corner of university property would be the most feasible location to build a new school. It would be close to highway 11 and city utilities. The proposed area would be around 50 acres of undeveloped property. The proposal would be for a long-term lease. There were three resolutions that were approved at the Facilities Committee meeting that include: the field turf/perma plank resolution, the Tiger Stadium renovation resolution, and the UCS Land Lease resolution.

***Mr. Justin Smith asked for any discussion on the field turf/perma plank resolution and there was none. A vote was held and the field turf/perma plank resolution was approved unanimously.***

***Mr. Justin Smith asked for any discussion on the Tiger Stadium renovation resolution and there was none. A vote was held and the Tiger Stadium renovation resolution was approved unanimously.***

***Mr. Justin Smith asked for any discussion on the UCS Land Lease resolution and there was none. A vote was held and the UCS Land Lease resolution was approved unanimously.***

#### **VIII. Report from the Finance Committee**

Mrs. Sheila Cloud reported that a very encouraging report was given by Mr. Lawson Edmonds. UWA's financial position has improved consistently and steadily since Dr. Tucker put in place the financial sustainability plan. There were also no major findings on the two audits performed; one was done by the CPA and one from the State of Alabama for compliance. A motion was passed in the Finance Committee to approve Christmas bonuses for all full-time employees in the amount of \$825. This bonus goes to all full-time employees with more than one year of service. A resolution was approved to refinance UWA bonds with a potential savings to UWA of \$1.5 million.

***Mr. Justin Smith asked for any discussion regarding the Christmas bonuses for employees and there was none. A vote was held and Christmas bonuses for employees was approved unanimously.***

***Mr. Justin Smith asked for any discussion on the bond refinancing resolution and there was none. A vote was held and the bond refinancing resolution was approved unanimously.***

#### **IX. Report from the University President**

##### *McIlwain Bell Trustee & Nellie Rose McCrory Award Winners*

Dr. Edwards introduced the recipients of the McIlwain-Bell Awards and they are as follows:

##### *McIlwain-Bell Awards*

Support Staff Excellence Award – Ms. Willie Raymond

Professional Staff Excellence Award – Mr. Will Atkinson

Trustee Professor Award – Dr. Rob Riser

##### *Nellie Rose McCrory Service Excellence Award*

Dr. LaJuan Hutchinson

Dr. Tucker congratulated the recipients on their award and stated that each individual has made enormous contributions to this University and are truly invaluable.

##### *Commencement Update*

Dr. Tucker provided an update on commencement which is December 14<sup>th</sup>. There are 954 total graduates for Fall commencement compared to 835 for Fall of last year. The total undergraduate numbers are 142 for this Fall semester in comparison to 137 from Fall last year, and the graduate total is 812 compared to 698 from Fall of last year. Not all of those eligible for graduation will participate, but roughly 400 will march between undergraduate and graduate. Dr. Tina Jones serves as the commencement chair and does a superb job coordinating all of the activities.

##### *Online Enrollment Update*

Dr. Tucker reported on Online Enrollment numbers. Fall One 2019 enrollment was 3,594 compared to 2,898 from Fall One 2018, and Fall Two 2019 had 3,468 compared to 2,978 from Fall Two 2018. Overall between Fall One and Two 2019 and Fall One and Two 2018, online enrollment has increased by 1,186 students. The online program continues to exceed our expectations and has increased revenue by over \$1 million. This is contributing to UWA's overall financial health. Mr. Jerry Smith asked at the previous meeting how UWA online compared to other peer institution's online programs. A list was compiled and showed that only USA, Troy, Alabama, and UAB had larger online enrollment. UWA is actually only 21 students less than

USA and has a larger number of online programs than most of our peers. UWA online programs has positioned themselves very competitively within the State.

*Economic and Workforce Development*

Dr. Tucker announced that the Division of Economic and Workforce Development was recently awarded \$2.5 million for Rural Workforce Development by the U.S. Department of Labor to UWA. The Governor of Alabama also recently announced the Enviva project which will provide 85 jobs and \$175 million in capital investment and 180 peripheral jobs and significant investment in the local community. UWA also received a DRA grant in the amount of \$500,000 for water and sewer upgrades for Port Epes, which is part of the overall Enviva project.

Dr. Tucker stated that on December 1<sup>st</sup>, UWA hosted a Summit on Rural Workforce Development. This is the only one that exists in the state. Our presenters were of the highest quality and attendance was outstanding.

**X. Report from the Board President**

*Appointment of Presidential Evaluation Committee*

Mr. Justin Smith stated that it is time to perform a Presidential Evaluation for Dr. Ken Tucker. Mrs. Beard will receive the responses and summarize the results for presentation to the Board. Each Board member will receive a copy of the results prior to the presentation. Mr. Justin Smith appointed the Presidential Evaluation Committee as follows: Mr. Victor Vernon, chair, Mr. Hal Bloom, and Mrs. Jean Anderson.

*Foundation Report*

Mr. Justin Smith asked Dr. John Killian to give a report of the UWA Foundation. Dr. Killian stated that he is proud of the work that the UWA Foundation is doing and wants to begin including the minutes from the last meeting in the board packet. He then invited Mr. Jimmy Collins, President of the UWA Foundation Board, to add any additional information. Mr. Collins read all of the resolutions of gratitude for gifts made to the Foundation and stated that this was the best quarter the Foundation has had in quite some time. The investment portfolio has increased in value from \$3,982,194.13 to \$4,913,838.15. The Foundation has also voted on two new members who are as follows: Mr. Brandon Essig who is an attorney with Lightfoot & Franklin and Mr. Rick Frederick who is the community relations manager with Enviva.

*Thed Spree Rodeo Resolution*

Mr. Justin Smith presented the following resolution. WHEREAS, Mr. Thed Spree has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of West Alabama since 1988 until the present time; and WHEREAS, during Mr. Spree's distinguished career as a member of the Board of Trustees, he has provided invaluable service to the University and has been passionately involved in numerous activities and accomplishments of the University which is to include but not be limited to the construction and completion of the rodeo arena in 1996 and the naming of the arena as the Don Hines Rodeo Arena in 1998; and WHEREAS, Mr. Spree has been a strong advocate for the University's rodeo program since its inception; and WHEREAS, in addition to Mr. Spree's long and distinguished service as a member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Spree and his family have made numerous contributions and gifts to the University to enhance the ability of the University to provide an exceptional educational experience to its students; and WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Trustees to honor Mr. Spree and his distinguished service to the University by renaming the rodeo arena to be known after the date of the adoption of this resolution as the Hines-Spree Rodeo Arena. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the University of West Alabama Board of Trustees at a regular meeting called on December 2, 2019, a Quorum being present, as follows:

1. That the Board of Trustees does, by the adoption of this Resolution, rename the University's rodeo arena as the Hines-Spree Rodeo Arena.

2. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Trustees and shall be made a part of the official minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees. **ADOPTED** this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2019. ***On a motion by Mr. Jerry Smith and seconded by Dr. John Killian the resolution was approved as presented above. The motion carried.***

**XI. New Business**

There was no new business.

**XII. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**XIII. Adjourn**

Mr. Justin Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Ms. Jody Wise moved to adjourn; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Katie Beard*

Assistant Secretary to the Board