

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
September 9, 2019 10:45 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. Terry Bunn, Mr. Jerry Groce, Dr. John Killian, Mr. Jerry Smith, 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; Mr. Jerry Smith seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2019

Mr. Justin Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meetings held on June 3, 2019. There were none. *Mr. Jerry Groce made a motion to approve the minutes; Dr. John Killian seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.*

V. Report from the Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Jerry Groce reported that Tim Edwards updated the Committee with the latest online enrollment numbers which show a positive trend in growth for online. Dr. Edwards presented the new academic programs that were approved from Spring 2018-2019. He also highlighted The Office of Sponsored Programs and announced that UWA has received \$26.4 million in grants and contracts from 2014-2019. Dr. Edwards stated that seven new faculty members have been hired.

VI. Report from the Student Affairs Committee

Mr. Terry Bunn stated that Richard Hester provided an update on enrollment and the initiatives that are being put into place to increase on-campus, undergraduate enrollment. One of the initiatives being implemented is the drafting of a strategic enrollment plan which will be done by a committee at UWA. An in-depth discussion ensued regarding increasing on-campus enrollment. Mr. Bunn announced that the partnership between Royall & Co. and UWA had ended.

VII. Report from the Facilities Committee

Mr. Justin Smith provided an overview of the report of the Facilities Committee. An update on the energy savings project was given and is almost complete. The McConnell House will begin renovation soon, with \$75,000 approved for that project which will be used to update the three bathrooms in the home.

VIII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mr. Jerry Smith reported that the recent audit completed by CDPA showed no findings. He also announced that UWA had a great last quarter. He applauded Dr. Tucker and Mr. Edmonds efforts in ensuring financial sustainability for UWA.

IX. Report from the University President

Economic and Workforce Development

Dr. Tucker announced that the Division of Economic and Workforce Development has recently been reorganized and recognized the Vice-President of Economic and Workforce Development, Dr. Tina Jones. Dr. Jones provided an overview of the reorganized division. Dr. Jones stated that the easy part of this new venture has been establishing the new mission and purpose for the division, but the difficult part has been peeling back the layers of what that means. The division is working hard and has been able to establish a UWA Economic Council which meets twice annually, has secured \$2 million in grants for county economic development projects, acted as a project manager in the economic development

for Sumter County, hosted statewide workshops (rural technology, opportunity zones and workforce development), expanded the Sumter County Economic Development Leadership Academy regionally, helped create the Sumter County Renaissance & Healthy Places grant, helped establish Sumter County as an ACT Work-keys/NCRC/Work-Ready Community, assembled Black Belt Exploration Camps, created professional development for teachers through programming and exhibits at the Black Belt Museum, assisted in building community capacity with the National Certified Guide Program, Leadership Sumter, and the Sucarnochee Folklife Festival, managed the AL200 Bicentennial City and County Committee, and hosted an Alabama Career Center Site on campus. Dr. Jones added that Enviva, which is a large corporation that aggregates a natural resource, wood fiber, and processes it into a transportable form, wood pellets, is looking very seriously into locating to Sumter County. This industry would bring 85 jobs and a \$175 million capital investment. She added that the \$2 million in grants have been secured to go towards assisting this industry in readying the site they have selected.

Dr. Tucker added that Economic and Workforce Development is a critical part of the overall mission of UWA, particularly regionally. Dr. Jones and her team do an exceptional job and have critical to the process of courting Enviva to Sumter County. Dr. Tucker invited all of the Board members to attend the Enviva announcement.

Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Tucker reported we are in the fifth year of our 5-year strategic plan. Therefore, a new committee has been formed to establish the new strategic plan, with Dr. J.J. Wedgworth serving as chair. Representation from all over campus has been included through members of this committee. The process will begin in January when they will evaluate the performance of the previous five years and see how effective UWA has been and if the goals set were achieved. The strategic alumni plan, the strategic marketing plan, and the strategic enrollment plan will be folded into the overall strategic plan for UWA. Work on this plan will go through the spring and summer with the intent of bringing this plan to the Board for review and approval in September 2020. The plan will be drafted by the committee and then reviewed by the Faculty Senate, Dean's Council, President's Council, and ultimately the Board of Trustees.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Tucker announced the following upcoming events. The National Alumni Association Athletic Sports Hall of Fame awards banquet will be on September 28th at 2 p.m. at the Bell Conference Center, with a reception following at the President's Home. UWA will be playing Tuskegee that day and will kick-off at 6 p.m. All sports hall of fame inductees will be honored at half-time of this game. The honorees are Michael Flynn, basketball, Gerald Warsham, football, and Jerry Smith, track and field. Mr. Smith began the track program at UWA and was a very successful athlete and coach in track and field.

The next upcoming event is homecoming, which begins with the Homecoming Bonfire on Thursday, October 10th at 7 p.m., then moves to the Alumni Party on Friday, October 11th at the Bell Conference Center, and concludes on Saturday, October 12th with the Alumni picnic at 11:30, the parade at 1:00 p.m., and the game at 4 p.m.

UWA, Community and Alumni Events

Dr. Tucker stated that UWA hosted Move-In Day on campus on August 17th for the incoming freshmen moving into Gilbert Hall. The day began at 9 a.m. and faculty, staff, community members, and student groups helped the freshmen and their parents with all of their belongings. A local church cooked hamburgers and the band was on-site and played throughout the day.

Dr. Tucker reported that the alumni department hosted an event at the Barons game on August 9th. The event was well attended and attracted a record number of participants. This is held on college colors night.

Dr. Tucker announced that the Sumter County UWA Alumni Chapter hosted their event at the Bell Conference Center on August 22nd and it was outstanding! He thanked Mrs. Beard for her hard work. Mrs. Beard added that attendance was at an all-time high for this event and the chapter had awarded more scholarships than in past years.

X. Report from the Board President

McConnell House ad hoc committee

Mr. Justin Smith appointed the McConnell House ad hoc renovation committee which consists of Mrs. Jean Anderson, chair, Mr. Hal Bloom, and Mrs. Sheila Cloud. Mrs. Jean Anderson announced that she is meeting with the architects on Friday and will begin selecting finishings for the bathroom.

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. Hal Bloom moved to adjourn; Mr. Jerry Smith seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Beard

Assistant Secretary to the Board