

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
June 4, 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. 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; Mr. Victor Vernon seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2018

Mr. Jerry Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meeting held on March 4, 2018. There were none. ***Mr. Justin Smith made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Hal Bloom seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.***

Mr. Jerry Smith asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential pending litigation. ***Dr. John Killian made a motion to go into Executive Session for this purpose; Mr. Hal Bloom seconded the motion; and the motion passed to go into Executive Session at 11:04 a.m.*** The estimated time for Executive Session is fifteen to twenty minutes.

At 11:30 a.m., Mr. Terry Bunn made a motion to go reconvene the regular Board of Trustees meeting; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion, and it was approved.

V. Report from the Institutional Advancement Committee

Mr. Hal Bloom stated that the Institutional Advancement Committee was very positive with Dr. Chris Thomason presenting information on Alumni, the increase in fundraising, and an update on the Foundation Board.

VI. Report from the Athletic Committee

Mr. Justin Smith reported that Mr. Stan Williamson gave an Athletic Review and Update. Mr. Williamson highlighted the success that UWA has had both athletically and academically. One of our student-athletes received honors at the Gulf South Conference Summer Meeting, while one alumni was inducted into the Gulf South Conference Hall of Fame. Fundraising for Athletics has recently exceeded \$1 million, which has been a tremendous achievement for that department. At spring commencement, 62 student athletes graduated. Dr. Chris Thomason provided an update on the Rodeo Arena Project and stated that a balance of \$167,245 is in the Foundation account, with an additional \$15,000 pledged. ***Mr. Justin Smith announced that Dr. Tucker made the following recommendations to the Athletic Committee regarding the Rodeo Arena Project: 1) take this project off the Board's agenda for future meetings 2) make the project a UWA internal matter 3) disband the Rodeo Committee 4) donors will be contacted through the Foundation regarding the status of their donations 5) allow fundraising efforts in process to continue 6) no further motions or action items will be presented to the Board from this point forward. This recommendation was approved with a motion and a second at the Athletic Committee meeting. Mr. Jerry Smith called for a vote on the recommendation presented and approved by the Athletic Committee. The motion carried.***

VII. Report from the Facilities Committee

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

Bridges Auditorium: The auditorium project is complete with the exception of signage. Signage is expected to be complete by June 4. Photos were available at the Facilities Committee meeting. A ribbon cutting is expected to occur in August.

Energy Savings Project

A motion was brought to the Board with a first and second from the Facilities Committee to authorize the Executive Committee to approve a contract with Schneider when and if the numbers are finalized and all has been reviewed with the contract being signed by the President. This motion carried.

A motion was brought to the Board with a first and second from the Facilities Committee to authorize the Executive Committee to approve Stifel as the financial underwriter of the project once the numbers are reviewed and finalized and adopt a general parameters agreement that would provide guidelines for developing a public financing option if and when that is the direction taken. The motion carried.

Dorm Project

Mr. Truelove announced that feasibility and environmental studies are being done on Bunn Hall and that financing for this project is in process through the USDA. Two site options are being considered and a student survey was sent out through housing that showed 57% of the students preferred one location over the other. In addition to the survey, UWA is also working with the architect to see which location would be best for this project. Mr. Truelove hopes to have additional information on Bunn Hall for the next meeting.

VIII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mr. Bunn, serving in the absence of Mrs. Sheila Cloud stated that the budget was reviewed and discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and brings forth a motion to the Board with a first and second from the Finance Committee for approval. The motion carried.

IX. Report from the University President

Spring Commencement

Dr. Tucker reported that Spring Commencement was a very successful event. He thanked the Board members who attended and said that it means a lot to the faculty and staff to see them at this event. There was a large graduating class at this commencement with 208 undergraduates and 338 graduates, which is a total of 546 graduates. This is the largest graduating class in years. Of the 546 graduates, 249 were on-campus students and 297 were online. There were several special guests that were in attendance, including Tim Mansour and Jim Brown who were inducted into the Golden Key Society. A copy of their biographies were distributed to the Board. Both men were outstanding recipients, noting much success throughout their personal and professional lives. Five Professors Emerti were recognized and included: Manley Blackwell, Professor of Music, 25 years; Fred Myers, Professor of Sociology, 41 years; Lynn Lashley, former Director of Nursing, 33 years; Gerald Jones, Associate Professor of English, 25 years; and Mark Griffith, Professor of Political Science, 27 years. Those honored with this distinction worked long and hard for the University, made a meaningful difference in the lives of their students, and are an outstanding group. Also in attendance were representatives from Guangdong University of Finance, including the Vice President, Dean of Students, and Director of Foreign Affairs. The Vice President made a few comments at the Spring Commencement which were very well received. The attendance for this Spring Commencement was a record high as there was overflow even in the overflow rooms. Dr. Tina Jones is the chair of this event and does a great job with flow and logistics and is surrounded by a great team.

Alabama Summit on Rural Technology

Dr. Tucker stated that the Alabama Summit on Rural Technology was a huge success for our University garnering statewide attention. It brought an awareness to our area and the vital need for broadband in rural counties in Alabama. A program from the event was distributed for the Board members to review. The program shows the high level of statewide partners that were pulled together for this, such as Alabama Power, A T & T, Auburn University Extension Service, APT, ACCA, Alabama League of Municipalities, and Naheola Credit Union. This was a tremendous undertaking for UWA and included an extensive list of high level presenters; including statewide business and industry executives, state legislators, academic thought leaders, statewide association leaders, elected officials, and U.S. Senator Doug Jones. The Bell Conference Center was overflowing with the number of attendees present. It was an extremely productive and meaningful time and we are going forward with follow up items from the Summit.

Mr. Thed Spree announced that Dr. Tucker was highlighted in Business Alabama along with UWA. Mrs. Betsy Compton, Dr. Tina Jones, Mrs. Allison Brantley, and Mr. Johnnie Aycock worked hard on submitting the articles that were run in the publication.

Mr. Jerry Smith added additional comments regarding graduation. Mr. Jerry Smith, Mr. Thed Spree, and Dr. John Killian were in attendance at the Spring Commencement. Mr. Smith stated that Commencement is a truly moving experience and encouraged all Board members to attend.

X. Report from the Board President

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Jerry Smith presented the meeting schedule for 2018-2019. ***On a motion by Dr. John Killian and seconded by Mrs. Jean Anderson the, 2018-2019 meeting schedule was approved as presented with the amendment that the schedule cannot be changed without Board approval. The motion carried.***

Committee Assignments

Mr. Jerry Smith presented the committee assignments and stated that they will remain the same; however, he reserves the right to make changes as needed.

Mr. Jerry Smith announced that Mrs. Jody Campbell has been appointed as a new UWA Board of Trustees member. She could not be in attendance today because of professional responsibilities.

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked the Board for their attendance at the meetings and for the commitment they have made to UWA.

XI. New Business

Mr. Terry Bunn stated that he is humbled and honored by the Board's decision to name the proposed dorm after him. He added that he appreciates the gesture and that it means a lot to his family. Mr. Jerry Smith and Dr. Ken Tucker thanked Mr. Bunn for his commitment to this University and that he is very deserving of this honor.

Mrs. Jean Anderson stated that she would appreciate your vote for her son, Rich Anderson for the Court of Criminal Appeals.

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; Mr. Justin Smith seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Beard

Assistant Secretary to the Board