

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
The University of West Alabama
Bell Conference Center
December 3, 2018, 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. Sheila Cloud, Mr. Jerry Groce, Dr. John Killian, Mr. Justin Smith, and Mr. Thed Spree. 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. Terry Bunn moved to approve the Agenda; Mrs. Sheila Cloud seconded the motion; and the motion was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2018 & September 10, 2018

Mr. Jerry Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the meetings held on June 4, 2018 and September 10, 2018. There were none. ***Dr. John Killian made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Joseph Brown 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. ***Mr. Justin Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session for this purpose; Mr. Jerry Groce seconded the motion; and the motion passed to go into Executive Session at 10:48 a.m.*** The estimated time for Executive Session is fifteen to twenty minutes.

At 11:11 a.m., Mrs. Sheila Cloud 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 presented an overview of Institutional Advancement stating that donations for the past three years were: 2017-2018 - \$2,265,128; 2016-2017 - \$2,181,876; and 2015-2016 - \$1,161,885. The total increase from the past three years is 128%. The number of donors also increased from 1,161 to 1,437. Planned giving emails are now being distributed with the Institutional Advancement staff working with seven potential large donors. The Institutional Advancement staff is also getting ready to launch a capital campaign. The Alumni department is also seeing success with 1,397 people attending alumni events compared to 1,264 the year before. Alumni was also able to award 110 scholarships for 2017-2018 in comparison to 77 in 2015-2016. Mr. Bloom thanked Dr. Thomason and his staff for their success on the Calling All Tigers call-a-thon where they raised \$131,543 with 375 total donors giving during this great event. That is an increase of over 22%. Eighty-seven students and employees participated in the fundraiser.

VI. Report from the Athletics Committee

Mr. Justin Smith reported that the Athletics Committee had a good meeting and enjoyed an update from volleyball head coach, Mrs. Alexis Meeks. Coach Wallace provided a report on UWA Athletics and reported on the main challenges facing Athletics, which is aligning the budget to reflect costs for required events or necessary items for the teams, managing student-athlete scholarships responsibly, and updating facilities. Mr. Lawson Edmonds and Mrs. Barbara Etheridge provided training to the coaches on how to review and analyze their budgets. As part of managing student-athlete scholarships, tags will be placed on the student-athletes so they are not able to change from an on-campus class to an online class without the coach's permission. This change will result in savings to the teams because the cost of online classes is higher than on-campus classes. One additional challenge is the updating of facilities across campus such as the

turf on the football field and the speakers and audio equipment in Pruitt Hall Gym. These facilities need to be updated in order to recruit potential student-athletes and remain competitive. Athletics is working with Institutional Advancement to fundraise for these items.

VII. Report from the Facilities Committee

Mrs. Jean Anderson provided an overview of the report of the Facilities Committee.

Energy Savings Project: The Energy Savings Project had a kickoff meeting which was held on October 29th. There are ongoing efforts to schedule all work and sign and implement all of the construction documents. The mechanical work will begin January 2019, and HVAC replacement will begin at Wallace Hall during the summer of 2019. The full contractual project duration between UWA and Schneider Electric is 18 months. The financing portion of the project is still in process. All of the requested information has been provided to Stifel, who is the financing body, and the closing date is anticipated to be the first of December. A handout was provided that provides more specific information regarding the Bond Financing.

Bunn Hall: We continue to work on financing the project with USDA. An approximate date of completion has been changed to June 2021, with construction planning beginning in January 2020, construction starting in April 2020 and taking about 16 months. Bunn Hall, once completed, will allow for 220 students. If Bunn Hall is completed in June 2021, then occupancy would be possible for Fall 2021. A feasibility study and environmental impact study are in process.

VIII. Report from the Finance Committee

Mrs. Sheila Cloud reported that the financial report provided by Mr. Lawson Edmonds was positive. Mr. Edmonds and his team are taking great strides in the financial sustainability plan. They are still cutting costs while trying to increase revenue and operating on a zero-based budgeting approach. UWA saved \$500,000 this year by partnering with Regions Bank for health insurance. Additional revenue was generated by outsourcing the bookstore to Barnes & Noble. Mrs. Cloud added that she is proud of Dr. Ken Tucker's and Mr. Lawson Edmonds' leadership.

IX. Report from the Bylaws Committee

Mr. Jerry Smith stated that he has reactivated the Bylaws Committee and asked Mr. Justin Smith, chair, to give a report. Mr. Justin Smith said that the bylaws committee had a great meeting in October where the committee discussed proposed changes to the enabling act. The plan is to take these proposed changes to the legislature during their next session. He added that the bylaws committee is not ready, at this time, to provide a final report. A final report will be given at the March Board of Trustees meeting.

Mr. Justin Smith presented a resolution from the bylaws committee stating the SACSCOC has requested all universities in Alabama to make certain changes to their bylaws to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest relating to the Governor acting as Chairman of the board of each state college or university in the State of Alabama. The Board of Trustees has considered the SACSCOC request and has determined it to be in the best interest of the University to authorize certain modifications to portions of Section 4 to its bylaws. The Board of Trustees does by adoption of the resolution revise and amend, pursuant to Section VIII of its current bylaws, the bylaws of the Board of Trustees to the form and content as set out in Exhibit A attached. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by eight members of the Board of Trustees. ***On a motion by Mr. Jerry Groce and a second by Mrs. Sheila Cloud the motion to amend the bylaws as presented was made. The motion carried.***

Dr. Ken Tucker announced that two regional universities have already made the SACSCOC suggested changes regarding the Governor in their bylaws. This change simply removes the language that states the Governor is chairman of the Board of Trustees and replaces it with the President of the Board. The conflict of interest raised by SACSCOC is that the Governor presides over all budgetary issues for public universities, so he/she should not also be the Chairman of the Board.

X. Report from the University President

Dr. Tucker presented the following recipients of the McIlwain Bell Trustee and Nellie Rose McCrory award winners:

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 Award – Ms. Fannie Tucker

Professional Staff Award – Mr. Robert Upchurch

Trustee Professor Award – Dr. James Robinson

Nellie Rose McCrory Service Excellence Award

Mr. Greg Jones

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

Miscellaneous Items

Dr. Tucker announced that UWA has been ranked as the best among all colleges and universities in Alabama by a recent national listing of college and universities. This is significant because over 1,000 higher education institutions were compared nationwide and 30 key measures were used. These measures were grouped into seven categories as follows: student selectivity, cost and financing, faculty resources, campus safety, campus experience, educational outcomes, and career outcomes. UWA was first in admission rate and gender and racial diversity, fourth in student/faculty ratio, and fifth for net cost. UWA was also the only university in Alabama to rank in the top fifty for the southern region as a whole. The determination was based on top performing schools with the lowest possible cost to undergraduates. The ranking analyzes post attendance metrics, which is becoming more and more important to state legislatures, and also considers student loan default rate and post-graduation earnings.

Dr. Tucker reported that last month UWA had the third annual site visit for our Career Pathways Initiative grant, which was a \$1.25 million grant. The overall point of the grant is to incorporate career pathways into the curriculum. The CPI site visit rep met with the UWA CPI grant team, UWA administration and students and highlighted several initiatives. These include the Inter-Disciplinary Studies program, our Freshman Seminar class, the University Charter School, and our university-wide effort to connect career ready skills to our curriculum from the moment an incoming freshman arrives until they leave as a graduate. This grant should also help with retention and graduation rates and enhance the student's career prospects.

Dr. Tucker stated that ABET has recently performed an on-site visit to UWA. The College of Business and Technology is seeking ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation. The programs seeking this accreditation are the four-year Bachelor of Science Engineering and Technology degree and the two-year Associate of Applied Science Industrial Maintenance degree. The site team visited our campus and met with the appropriate students and faculty/staff and senior administrators. The site visit included several demonstrations and presentations by our students, who showcased senior capstone projects and their robotics projects which have recently been featured in competitions nationwide. UWA did very well when competing with much larger schools throughout the nation. During the exit interview, UWA received a favorable report, along with a few recommendations which the university was asked to resolve during the spring semester. All of the recommendations have been addressed. The ABET committee will formally meet and vote in July 2019 regarding our accreditation. ABET accreditation is the highest level of accreditation that you can receive for these programs which will help with publicity, recruiting, and visibility.

Dr. Tucker provided an update on online enrollment. The Fall Two 2019 enrollment numbers have recently been completed and show an enrollment of 2,978 in comparison to Fall Two 2018 which had 2,315. That is an increase of 663 students. UWA continues to be amazed with the growth in enrollment for Online Programs. The increased enrollment equates to revenue of \$3.19 million for 2019 in comparison to this time in 2018 which was \$2.46 million. That is an increase in revenue of \$731,000. The enrollment growth shows that the head count has increased by 3,377 students from 2018 to 2019.

Dr. Tucker stated that the Division of Economic and Workforce Development has led the effort to have our industrial parks certified as fiber ready and includes the Livingston North Industrial Park, Livingston South Industrial Park, and McDowell Industrial Park. All of the parks were certified as A T & T fiber ready during a formal ceremony at Prystup Packaging. Being designated as certified fiber ready helps area economic developers more effectively position our communities for site selection by emphasizing the availability of high-speed fiber based services, and that helps recruit business and industry to our region, which is a goal of the city of Livingston and UWA. Fiber development at the Port of Epes is currently underway. Sumter County is one of only twenty other Alabama communities to be certified as fiber ready. This effort has been a direct effort from our Summit on Rural Technology which was held in April 2018. The next Summit is already being planned and will be held on the campus of UWA in April 2019.

Dr. Tucker reported that UWA was awarded a grant called Healthy People, Healthy Places. This is a partnership with the EPA, UWA, City of Livingston, and Sumter County. UWA was one of only seven applicants nationwide to receive this grant. Community leaders and healthcare partners have come together locally to create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant downtowns and neighborhoods with the charge of improving health, protecting the environment, and supporting economic growth. This was a grant funded technical assistance program initially, as well as some seed money, which allows the local leadership team to engage the community and identify goals and strategies to achieve those goals. UWA's Division of Economic and Workforce Development has been approved by the leadership team to take the lead role for future funding projects and goal attainment and they are hard at work. This is a great example at UWA's

commitment to work with the city, the county, and regional and state entities to try to increase the standard of living and quality of life for those people we serve.

Dr. Tucker announced that UWA is changing physical therapy providers, which will impact our lease agreement, and therefore requires board action. Dr. R T Floyd provided a brief summary of what is going on and why. Dr. Floyd added that ATI is a new group to Alabama and was suggested by Dr. Lyle Cain and his group. The terms of the lease are the same with ATI as they were with Champion Sports Medicine. Mr. Kendrick stated that the contract is three years in length, but has a thirty-day termination period if UWA sees fit to terminate the lease. This change is precipitated by the physicians that consult with UWA. Notice to terminate the current contract in place with Champion has been given. ***On a motion by Dr. John Killian and a second by Mrs. Sheila Cloud the Board approved entering into a contract with ATI. The motion carried.***

X. Report from the Board President

Mr. Jerry Smith thanked Dr. Ken Tucker for his leadership and progress that has been made at UWA.

Mr. Jerry Smith asked Dr. John Killian to give an update on the Foundation Board. He stated that he is so impressed with the work of the Foundation Board and the job that Mr. Jimmy Collins does leading the Foundation Board. Mr. Jimmy Collins added that four members of the Foundation Board retired at the last meeting. Those members were presented with a plaque and recognized for their contributions and include Mrs. Liza Howard, Mrs. Candice Keene, Mr. Danny Cooper, and Mrs. Jody Campbell. He also reported that Regions financial began handling the finances of the Foundation on June 2017, and since that time the portfolio has seen a 6.54% increase and has increased in the last month by \$300,000.

Mr. Jerry Smith congratulated the McIlwain Bell Trustee and Nellie Rose McCrory award winners on the behalf of the Board of Trustees and stated that the Board appreciates their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Jerry Smith stated that it is time to perform a Presidential Evaluation on Dr. Ken Tucker. Last year a very in-depth evaluation was done, so this year he proposed that the President's Council should evaluate the President through a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be approximately 10-15 questions in length and it will be done anonymously. Mrs. Beard will receive the responses and summarize the results for presentation at the March meeting. Each Board member will receive a copy of the results prior to the meeting.

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; Mrs. Jean Anderson seconded the motion; and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Beard

Assistant Secretary to the Board