

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM
CAMMACK CONFERENCE ROOM
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
VIA TELEPHONE AND VIDEO CONFERENCE
11:00 A.M., APRIL 8, 2020

TRUSTEE PRESENT:

Chairman John Goodson.

TRUSTEES PRESENT VIA
CONFERENCE CALL AND ZOOM:

Trustees Tommy Boyer; Stephen A. Broughton, M.D.; Steve Cox; Ted Dickey; Kelly Eichler; Ed Fryar, Ph.D.; Cliff Gibson; Morril Harriman; and Sheffield Nelson.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS
AND OTHERS PRESENT:

System Administration:

President Donald R. Bobbitt, Vice President for Agriculture Mark Cochran, General Counsel JoAnn Maxey, Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael K. Moore, Vice President for University Relations Melissa Rust, Chief Financial Officer Gina Terry, Senior Director of Policy and Public Affairs Ben Beaumont, Director of Communications Nate Hinkel, Associate Vice President for Benefits & Risk Management Services Steve Wood, Associate Vice President for Finance Chaundra Hall Chief Audit Executive Laura Cheak, Chief Information Officer Steven Fulkerson, Assistant to the President Angela Hudson and Associate for Administration Sylvia White.

Campus Representatives:

UAF Chancellor Joe Steinmetz, Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Mike White, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs James Coleman, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations Randy Massanelli, Chief of Staff Laura Jacobs, Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek and Managing Associate General Counsel Bill Kincaid; UAFS

Chancellor Terisa Riley, Vice Chancellor for Finance Brad Sheriff, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Georgia Hale; UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, Provost and Chief Strategy Officer Stephanie Gardner and ICE Chief Clinical Officer Steppe Mette; UAPB Chancellor Laurence Alexander, Vice President for Finance and Administration Carla Martin, Provost/Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Robert Z. Carr, Jr., and Chief of Staff Janet Broiles; UAM Chancellor Peggy Doss, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Alex Becker and Chief Information Officer Anissa Jo Rossa; UALR Chancellor Christina Drale, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Steve McClellan, Chief of Government Relations Joni Lee, and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cody Decker; UACCB Chancellor Deborah Frazier and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Gayle Cooper; UACCH-T Chancellor Chris Thomason, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Cindy Lance and Executive Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brian Berry; PCCUA Chancellor Keith Pinchback, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Stan Sullivant and Vice Chancellor for College Advancement and Resource Development Rhonda St. Columbia; CCCUA Chancellor Steve Cole, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Charlotte Johnson and Vice Chancellor for Academics Ashley Aylett; UACCM Chancellor Lisa Willenberg; UA-PTC Chancellor Margaret Ellibee and Director, Enrollment Services Zachary Perrine; UACC-RM Chancellor Phillip Wilson; AAS Director George Sabo, III; CJI Director Cheryl May; UACS Dean Skip Rutherford; ASMSA Director Corey Alderdice and WRI Executive Director Marta Loyd.

Members of the Press.

Chairman Goodson called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas to order at 11:03 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the Cammack Conference Room of the University of Arkansas System Administration Building in Little Rock, and via telephone and video conference. Upon motion by Trustee Nelson and second by Trustee Fryar, the Chair convened Executive Session for the purpose of considering the employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of public officers or employees for the various campuses of the University of Arkansas System.

1. Executive Session:

Chairman Goodson reconvened the Regular Session of the Board at 12:29 p.m., and stated no action was taken during Executive Session, and the meeting would continue with the regular agenda items.

2. Discussion Regarding Budget Adjustments due to RSA Changes, Preliminary Information on Arkansas's FY 2021 Budget, and Summary of CARES:

Vice President for University Relations Melissa Rust updated the Board on the RSA changes—a 4.2% reduction in the forecast, and Chief Financial Officer Gina Terry discussed budget adjustments, indicating that the fourth quarter would see the most material adjustments. Ms. Terry reminded the Board that UAMS has a huge impact on the entire system--41% of the operating revenue.

3. UAMS COVID-19 Update:

Chair Goodson stated that he and the entire Board are extremely proud of UAMS and the leadership it provides to the State. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Chancellor Cam Patterson updated the Board on COVID-19 and thanked the multitude of people and organizations that have supported UAMS through this effort. All patients and employees at UAMS are screened daily. At this point, there has been NO transmission of the virus at the UAMS Medical Center. Dr. Patterson also briefly discussed the ongoing research at UAMS related to COVID-19. Trustee Nelson requested that the Board consider a resolution at its next meeting acknowledging UAMS' efforts in combating COVID-19.

4. Student Account Adjustments:

Chief Financial Officer Gina Terry updated the Board on guidelines from NACUBO, and she and General Counsel JoAnn Maxey made comments concerning adjustments to

student accounts. Each campus has different housing contracts and different timelines as to when (and if) dormitories closed. Auxiliary ops ---food services and housing are self-sustaining. Refunding does not fall under emergency aid to students. Upon motion of Trustee Gibson and second by Trustee Eichler, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the health and economic uncertainty facing students and families across the University of Arkansas System in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic forced the partial closing of student housing units at several campuses of the University of Arkansas System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the campus administration is hereby authorized to provide prorated credits or adjustments to students for room and board costs at institutions that closed housing units as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent permitted by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT institutions are authorized to provide prorated distributions for room and board costs to students who have completed all coursework for graduation by August 31, 2020 at institutions that closed housing units as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Tuition and Fees:

President Bobbitt presented a proposed resolution concerning tuition and fees stating that it is designed to hold the amounts constant through the fall 2020 semester. The Board can address spring 2021 after monitoring the economic situation in the next several months. Upon motion by Trustee Eichler and second by Trustee Nelson, the following resolution was approved.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the health and economic uncertainty facing students and families across the University of Arkansas System in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board also recognizes the need for advanced financial planning for students and families, as well as for the leadership of the two- and four-year institutions across the system as they prepare for the budgetary implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Fiscal Year 2020-21;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board approves tuition and fee levels at the two- and four-year institutions across the system to remain flat for the Fall 2020 semester.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will work with the UA System and campus administrations to monitor the economic situation in the coming months before establishing tuition rates for the Spring 2021 semester.

6. Athletic and Academic Camps, Summer 2020:

Upon motion of Trustee Dickey and second by Trustee Harriman, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the need for continued social distancing across the University of Arkansas System to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with their academic and public service missions, the various campuses of the UA System traditionally host many summer athletic and academic camps;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT all in-person athletic and academic camps are cancelled for the summer 2020 term.

7. Status of Face to Face Delivery for 2020 Summer Terms:

Upon motion of Trustee Cox, second by Trustee Fryar, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the need for continued social distancing across the University of Arkansas System to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the Board also recognizes the need for students to continue their progression toward degree completion when courses can be provided via remote learning platforms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT all face-to-face classes for summer terms are suspended and continued instruction via online classes is encouraged where appropriate at the various campuses across the UA System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any exception to the suspension of face-to-face courses may be approved by the President and must involve social distancing measures as have been prescribed by the Arkansas Department of Health.

8. Update on Human Resources Issues Resulting From COVID-19 and Recent Legislation:

Associate Vice President for Benefits and Risk Management Steve Wood updated the Board on Human Resources (HR) issues as follows:

The federal Family First Coronavirus Response Act provides for two paid leave programs for a total of up to 12 weeks of covered leave for COVID related medical and childcare needs.

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act) provides options for retirement plan distributions and loans with extended payback periods and with suspension of the existing early withdrawal tax penalty. The University's Retirement Committee – representative of UA campuses – has recommended adoption of both provisions.

Within the Health Plan:

Tele-health service access has been enhanced. Through the health plan the services are now available for all participants.

Pharmacy refill restrictions (the "Refill Too Soon" message) has been suspended to provide members with access to refills earlier/ sooner in the month. That allows members to maintain a larger supply of medications and to their limit trips to the pharmacy.

A remote-access EAP program for all campuses, all employees, has been introduced. It is basic but among the services it does provide is unlimited access to masters level counselors at no costs to participants.

Testing services for COVID are at \$0 Out-of-Pocket for participants. Dr. Bobbitt announced that coverage in early March. These services now include the office visit associated with testing and any associated testing supplies or services.

9. Time-Limited Authority to Adjust Admissions Criteria for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Semesters:

Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Moore presented a resolution for approval, which requested that the Board grant authority to the President to provide temporary adjustments to currently approved admission standards in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Many schools require the submission of ACT or SAT tests and those are not currently available to students. Moreover, some students are having difficulty getting transcripts as schools have gone to remote work status. They will have the campus submit the proposed change to the President along with requested duration for the change. These

changes would not be permanent and would revert to currently published standards once normal business resumes. Upon motion of Trustee Gibson and second by Trustee Boyer, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas has previously approved admissions policies for the various campuses of the University of Arkansas System, including standardized testing requirements; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the ability of some prospective students to complete all requirements for admission, including applicable standardized testing; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and supports the work of the campuses of the UA System to recruit and admit students during this time of pandemic-related disruption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the President is authorized to grant temporary modifications to institutional admissions policies to provide flexibility to institutions in admitting students for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

10. Other Business:

Chairman Goodson announced the next special called meeting of the Board will be scheduled for May 4, 2020 via Zoom. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is May 20-21, 2020 also via Zoom.

Chairman Goodson concluded the meeting by thanking everyone in attendance. There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion by Trustee Dickey and second by Trustee Harriman, the meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Kelly Eichler, Secretary