

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
10:00 A.M., MAY 4, 2020

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Chairman John Goodson; Trustees Kelly Eichler and Sheffield Nelson.

TRUSTEES PRESENT VIA
CONFERENCE CALL AND ZOOM:

Trustees Tommy Boyer; Stephen A. Broughton, M.D.; Steve Cox; Ted Dickey; Ed Fryar, Ph.D.; Cliff Gibson; and Morrill Harriman.

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, 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, Managing Associate General Counsel Bill Kincaid, Senior Associate General Counsel Matt McCoy,

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Charles Robinson, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions Suzanne McCray, Senior Associate Athletic Director Public Relations Kevin Trainor and Vice Chancellor for Advancement Mark Power; 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, ICE Chief Clinical Officer Steppe Mette, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Amanda George, Dean of the College of Medicine Chris Westfall and Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Danielle Lombard-Sims; UAPB Chancellor Laurence Alexander, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Carla Martin, Chief of Staff Janet Broiles, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management Braque Talley and Athletic Director Chris Peterson; UAM Chancellor Peggy Doss, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Alex Becker and Athletic Director Padraic McMeel; UALR Chancellor Christina Drale, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Steve McClellan, Chief of Government Relations Joni Lee, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Ann Bain, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cody Decker and Associate General Counsel Mindy Pipkin; UACCB Chancellor Deborah Frazier; UACCH-T Executive Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brian Berry and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Laura Clark; 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, 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 10:06 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 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 Eichler and second by Trustee Nelson, 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 11:15 a.m., and stated no action was taken during Executive Session, and the meeting would continue with the regular agenda items.

2. Athletics Discussion:

The directors of athletics from three UA System institutions – Hunter Yurachek from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; Chris Peterson from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; and Padraic McMeel from the University of Arkansas at Monticello – provided reports to the Board on the status of fall sports on their respective campuses. The athletics directors detailed how their departments and individual athletics conferences are approaching the decision to return to practicing and competing in intercollegiate athletics in the fall semester and potential measures being considered to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus in athletics facilities.

3. COVID-19 Update Concerning Impact on UAMS:

Dr. Cam Patterson updated the Board on the many different ways that UAMS is dealing with the pandemic, including 12-18 hour shifts, PPE procurement, over 35,000 tele-help visits, convalescent plasma testing, a children's day camp for some 130+ children of

UAMS employees, and many other ways, all while maintaining zero transmission of the virus at the UAMS Medical Center.

4. COVID-19 Discussion: Preliminary Financial Impact, CARES, and Fees for 2020 Summer Terms:

President Bobbitt provided the Board with a report on funding that will soon be distributed by the Department of Education to UA System institutions under the federal CARES Act. Dr. Bobbitt explained that 50 percent of the funds must be distributed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus due to the coronavirus and provided the Board with a summary report of how the institutions will allocate those funds to their students.

4.1 Approval for President to Allow the Waiver of Certain Fees for 2020 Summer Terms:

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas recognizes the unique circumstance facing each system campus in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board voted on April 8, 2020 to continue social distancing measures and utilize online-only instruction for coursework during summer terms at institutions across the system; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to give the System and its institutions flexibility in addressing student needs during the summer terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board authorizes the President to waive certain fees for the summer 2020 terms in coordination with the Chancellors of the various campuses.

UAMS Chancellor Patterson discussed various strategies for dealing with budget shortfalls—losing some one million dollars a day—stating that the institution is considering every possible funding option and all possible cost cutting measures.

5. Approval of Appreciation Resolution for UAMS's Leadership:

Upon motion by Trustee Nelson and second by Trustee Eichler, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has called to action frontline and essential workers across the University of Arkansas System to respond to the needs of patients, students and others who have been directly impacted by the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, from the emergency room physicians, nurses and other clinicians to the support staff and custodial team at the medical center have demonstrated outstanding courage and bold perseverance in their daily work fighting the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cam Patterson and his administrative team have worked tirelessly since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Arkansas in early March to not only prepare UAMS to serve as an essential healthcare provider to virus patients, but also to assist Governor Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Health in developing and implementing a statewide plan to identify the disease through increased testing capacity and to mitigate the spread of the virus through health policy directives; and

WHEREAS, other workers across the UA System have also responded admirably to this crisis, from the custodial staffs who have worked to clean campus facilities to the faculty members and support staff who have spent extra hours preparing for and executing the move to online instruction; and

WHEREAS, each UA System institution and its administration has identified unique ways to help their communities and others across the state, including through donating excess supplies of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, utilizing available technology to make face masks and shields, and offering the opportunity for displaced employees to temporarily fill personnel needs at UAMS; and

WHEREAS, all of the aforementioned individuals have brought honor and distinction to the University of Arkansas System through their selfless work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board expresses its heartfelt appreciation and admiration for the employees across the UA System, including those at UAMS, who have led the effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, posted on the UA System website, and shared to the extent practicable with system personnel across the state.

6. Approval of Appreciation Resolution for Governor Hutchinson's Leadership:

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

WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced the first known case of COVID-19 in Arkansas on March 11, 2020 and subsequently declared a public health emergency to facilitate and coordinate the state's multi-agency response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, even before the first case was confirmed, the Governor and his administration, including the Arkansas Department of Health under the leadership of Secretary Nate Smith, took important steps to prepare for the arrival of the virus in the state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson called a special session of the Arkansas General Assembly to convene on March 26, 2020 to set aside critical funding for the state to respond to the health care needs that have stemmed from the pandemic across the state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson and Secretary Smith have provided daily briefings to the citizens of Arkansas regarding the social distancing measures needed to mitigate the impact of the virus across the state and the government's efforts to coordinate the procurement of the necessary supplies to treat those patients who have contracted COVID-19 and to identify the spread of the virus through increased testing; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson has called on Dr. Cam Patterson and the capable team at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to play an active role in the state's coordinated response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hutchinson has demonstrated calm and capable leadership in charting a course for the state's response to the pandemic that protects public health and provides support to Arkansans who have been impacted by the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board expresses its heartfelt appreciation and admiration for Governor Asa Hutchinson for his leadership during this critical time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, posted on the UA System website, and that a copy be transmitted to the Governor.

7. COVID-19 Discussion re Continuing Matters:

President Bobbitt discussed the various aspects of reopening the campuses for face-to-face classes this fall, including setting up a small working group to advise the Board. ASMSA Director Corey Alderdice reported on the possibility of an August 1, 2020, graduation ceremony at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

7.1. Approval of Fall 2020 Campus Reopening Resolution:

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 need to continue monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Arkansas and to adhere to the public health guidelines and directives from the state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal governments have outlined steps for removing some physical distancing directives to facilitate a phased-in reopening of communities across Arkansas where UA System institutions are located; and

WHEREAS, President Donald R. Bobbitt has appointed a UA System task force including campus leadership and representatives from the system administration to identify the necessary steps to reopen institutions to students, faculty and staff for the fall 2020 semester; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need for and encourages the task force and institutional leadership to create plans that include measures to protect the various campus constituencies from the spread and mitigate the impact of COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board directs the President to work with the Chancellors and other chief executives across the UA System to prepare the various campuses, divisions and units of the system to reopen to students, faculty and staff for the fall 2020 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs such plans be consistent with the health policy directives of the state and federal governments regarding the COVID-19 virus.

7.2. Approval of Board Policy 425.5, *Retirement Program*, Revision:

Steve Wood, associate vice president for benefits and risk management services, presented the request to revise Board Policy 425.5, *Retirement Program*, to delay the employee required contribution increase currently scheduled for July 2020, until July 2021. The proposal has the support of the University Retirement Committee which includes representatives from each campus. Upon motion by Trustee Eichler and second by Trustee Harriman, the following resolution was approved:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT Board Policy 425.5 University of Arkansas Retirement Program, is hereby amended to delay the employee required contribution increase, currently scheduled for July 1, 2020, until July 1, 2021.

8. Approval of Resolution Concerning Sales Tax Extension, UAFS:

Chancellor Terisa Riley, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, presented a request for the Board's approval to petition the Quorum Court to consider placing on the 2020 general election ballot in Sebastian County, the question of extending the sales tax for an additional 10 years. Upon motion of Trustee Harriman and second by Trustee Nelson, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Westark College and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas voted on December 15, 2000 for Westark College to join the University of Arkansas System as the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Sebastian County overwhelmingly voted on July 17, 2001 to dissolve the local community college district, repeal a 5.2 mills property tax for capital improvements for the college and adopt a 20-year, one-quarter of one-percent (\$.0025) county sales take to support maintenance, operation and capital improvements at UA-Fort Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Smith community has experienced steady growth and development during the past 20 years with the university playing a key role in the economic and educational development of the region; and

WHEREAS, UA-Fort Smith today offers 51 bachelor's and associate's degrees, two master's degrees and 36 certificate programs that are aligned with local employment needs and designed to prepare students to explore, innovate and compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, UA-Fort Smith currently receives approximately \$6 million annually from the county sales and faithfully stewards those funds toward the maintenance, operation and capital needs of the campus; and

WHEREAS, the sales tax to support UA-Fort Smith is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2022 but can be extended for an additional 10 years under Arkansas Law with a vote of the countywide electorate; and

WHEREAS, Act 1087 of 2013 gave UA-Fort Smith the legal authority to approach the Sebastian County Quorum Court to request a vote of the electorate to extend the sales tax for an additional 10 years until December 31, 2031; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes the vital importance of UA-Fort Smith to Sebastian County and to the overall mission of the system to provide higher education opportunities to all of the citizens of Arkansas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board authorizes the Chancellor of UA-Fort Smith to take the necessary steps to petition the Sebastian County Quorum Court to consider placing the question of the sales tax extension on the ballot for consideration of the residents of the county during the 2020 general election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to spread this resolution on the minutes of this meeting and transmit a copy to the membership of the Sebastian County Quorum Court and other officials in the community as requested by the Chancellor of UA Fort Smith.

9. Approval of Resolution Concerning UALR:

Chancellor Christina Drale, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, reported on the process used to address the budget problems, which has been her primary task since her September 2019 appointment as Chancellor.

Upon motion of Trustee Eichler, second by Trustee Cox, the following resolution was approved: *{NOTE: the below UALR resolution was amended on May 6, 2020}*

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the academic restructuring plan of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock presented by Chancellor Christina Drale on May 4, 2020, is hereby approved as presented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the reduction in colleges from five to three as set forth below are approved:

College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education
College of Business, Health, and Human Services
College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

10. Other Business:

Chairman Goodson announced the next regularly scheduled Board meeting is May 20-21, 2020 also via Zoom. The members of the Board will let the President's office know their preference for a one- or two-day meeting.

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 Broughton, the meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Kelly Eichler, Secretary