

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
10:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2026**

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, March 13, 2026, in Banquet Hall C of the Guillot University Center in accordance with Section 6 of Act No. 773 of the 1967 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. A letter from three Trustees (dated February 20, 2026) was sent via email to Governor Kay Ivey in care of her Director of Constituent Affairs, requesting that the Governor call the quarterly meeting for March 13. Proposed letters calling the Board to the meeting also were sent for the Governor's signature as per standard practice, and the same were mailed to Trustees from the Governor's office in advance of the meeting under the date of March 2. Also on March 2, Board members were advised via email from the President's Office that the agenda, proposed resolutions, and supporting documents for items of discussion were available for individual electronic access in the Canvas software system.

Board President Pro Tempore Will Trapp called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

I. INVOCATION

Mr. Trapp offered the opening invocation.

II. ROLL CALL

President Kenneth D. Kitts called the roll, and the following members were present in the meeting room:

Trustee Marty Abroms	Trustee Jim Page	Trustee Gary Smith
Trustee Joel Anderson II	Trustee Steve Pierce	Trustee Will Trapp
Trustee Ann Berry	Trustee Simpson Russell	Trustee Anne Whitaker
Trustee Kyle Buchanan	Trustee Nancy Sanford	

Ex officio member Governor Kay Ivey was absent. A quorum of voting members was in attendance.

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

- Mr. Jason Cochran, Chief of Governmental Relations and Regulatory Affairs
- Dr. Minnette Ellis, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Executive Director for University Priorities
- Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan, General Counsel
- Mr. Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement
- Dr. Josh Looney, Athletics Director
- Dr. Brien Smith, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Mr. Evan Thornton, Senior Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
- Dr. K.C. White, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Doug Barrett, Interim Dean of the Sanders College of Business and Technology
- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Cole Honors College
- Dr. Justin Carter, 2025-2026 Faculty Senate President
- Ms. Cindy Conlon, Associate Vice President for Facilities Administration and Planning
- Ms. Michelle Eubanks, Executive Director of University Media and Public Relations
- Dr. Sarah Franklin, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Excellence
- Mr. Matt Hanback, newly elected Student Government Association President for 2026-2027

- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the Spencer College of Education and Human Sciences
- Dr. Tera Kirkman, Dean of Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Mr. John McGee, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Deputy Provost
- Ms. Alex Rhoades, 2025-2026 Student Government Association President
- Ms. Anna Leigh Rossi, 2025-2026 Staff Senate President
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Executive Assistant to the President for Administration
- Mr. Randall Watts, University Librarian

WAFF-TV 48 reporter Aria Pons joined the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Trapp submitted the agenda for consideration. Upon motion by Mr. Russell and second by Mr. Smith, the agenda as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 5, 2025, QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Mr. Trapp submitted minutes from the previous meeting for consideration. Upon motion by Mr. Buchanan and second by Ms. Whitaker, the minutes as presented were approved by unanimous vote.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Kitts gave a brief summary on the state of the University from a prepared text. Topics included:

- Last evening's 10th anniversary Light the Fountain signature campus event
- Enrollment update --- Record spring headcount --- Positive fall outlook based on current early indicators
- Continued success with efforts in Montgomery
 - Still not at equity funding, but Progress 208 has narrowed gap considerably
 - Rise in annual state appropriation from \$26 million per year a decade ago to now surpass \$60 million for FY27
- Success at federal level with ~\$23 million in allocations to UNA in last three years
- Unprecedented level of giving in "Shine On, Gold" campaign
- Students remain center of focus in all decision making

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

As committee chair, Mr. Anderson presented action items covered in this committee's March 12 meeting that were on the agenda today for the full Board's consideration:

A. Resolution Approving the Addition of Fitness Management and Health Promotion Concentrations to the Existing B.S. in Exercise Science Degree and Inactivation of the B.S. in Health and Fitness Degree with Accompanying Concentrations

Following summary comments by Mr. Anderson, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Resolution Approving a Micro-Credential in the Area of Artificial Intelligence in Education

Following summary comments by Mr. Anderson, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Adopting a Revised Institutional Review Board Policy at the University of North Alabama

Following summary comments by Mr. Anderson, with the recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee and upon motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Buchanan, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Anderson also highlighted informational topics covered in this committee's March 12 meeting, including:

- Faculty Senate initiatives this semester
- Overview of research and academic content provided through University contract with Birmingham-based EBSCO firm (*follow-up to December request when renewal of EBSCO contract came to Trustees for approval*)
- 1,000+ international students enrolled this spring (20% increase over last year)
- Students participating in ~200 study abroad trips to 23 locations this academic year

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

As committee chair, Ms. Whitaker presented two information items from the March 12 committee discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments

B. Annual Endowment Report for UNA Trustees Scholarship Fund

There has been substantial growth of over 120% in the total endowment over the past several years, and Board members were encouraged to keep the Trustees Scholarship Fund in mind as they consider personal giving. There were no questions concerning these two agenda items, and they required no action by the Board.

Ms. Whitaker also highlighted other informational topics covered in the preceding day's committee meeting:

- Status of "Shine On, Gold" campaign -- \$100 million goal will be met
 - Concluding celebration planned for September; needs and giving opportunities remain
 - Goal of previous campaign was \$25 million. "Shine On, Gold" surpassed that amount in scholarship gifts alone.
- Legacy Initiative to sunset in coming months with goal to reach total of 1,000 personalized bricks in Harrison Plaza
- Town/gown update and good progress with Pine Street projects

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTERS

As committee chair, Mr. Pierce reported on an array of topics covered during this committee's March 12 meeting. These included:

- SGA work, activities, and events this spring
- Care and support for students demonstrated with high volume of interactions through health services and counseling services
- Impact of e-bikes that assist students in traversing campus
- Rebrand of "SOAR" to "ROAR" summer orientation program and its impact on enrollment and retention
- National exposure and attention for UNA's athletics program
- Student-athletes' success in the classroom with overall 3.25 GPA for fall term
- Bank Independent Stadium construction update
- Continued planning for UNA's bicentennial celebration in 2030

The committee had no action items to present at today's meeting.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Before committee chair Mr. Abrams began his report, Mr. Trapp recognized him on being named "Shoals Citizen of the Year" by the Shoals Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Abrams was congratulated with applause from all in the room.

Mr. Abrams reported on topics covered in this committee's March 12 meeting, including Staff Senate activities this spring. On the agenda today for the full Board were:

A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending December 31, 2025

Revenue and expenditures are in line as would be expected for the first quarter of the fiscal year, and they compare favorably with the previous year. Good progress is being made on capital projects. The quarterly financial report was thoroughly reviewed in the committee setting. There were no questions, and this information item required no action by the Board.

B. Resolution Approving Rental Rates in University-Owned Housing Facilities Effective Fall 2026

Mr. Abroms described that the overall proposed 2.17% housing rental rate increase is necessary to offset rising costs but is still well below the current rate of inflation. Different rates charged for the various properties reflect the level of amenities, and UNA's housing rates are very competitive with other universities. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Approving Student Meal Plan Prices Effective Fall 2026

The University's contractual obligations for a 3.5% pricing increases are tied to the Consumer Price Index to reflect typical inflation, but through negotiations with the Chartwells food service provider, the proposed rise in meal plan charges for next year is at 3.1%. Mr. Abroms pointed out that over \$800,000 in direct sales tax was collected last year through campus food service purchases by the University and its students. In turn, those tax dollars support the local community. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Mr. Pierce, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Resolution Authorizing Expenditures

Mr. Abroms provided summary comments about proposed renewal of three existing contracts that exceed the spending threshold for requiring Board approval. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Mr. Smith, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Biennial Board Self-Evaluation Survey for SACSCOC Compliance

Mr. Trapp reminded Trustees that it is again time this spring for the Board to conduct a self-assessment of its responsibilities and expectations as required by SACSCOC accreditation standards. This information item required no action by the Board at this time. Results of the survey will be reviewed in connection with the next regular Trustees meeting in June.

B. Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Nominate 2026-2028 Board of Trustees President Pro Tempore and Vice President Pro Tempore

Mr. Trapp asked Mr. Page and Mr. Russell to serve as a two-member committee to bring forward at the June meeting their nominations for Board officer positions for 2026-2027.

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Trapp noted that an executive session was needed to hear updates on pending legal matters. As an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama, Ms. Fite-Morgan could affirm that the Board's discussion of these matters in executive session was authorized under Section 3 of the Code of Alabama that allows for closed session to discuss the general reputation and character of individuals and the legal ramifications of pending litigation. Therefore, an executive session would be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and Ms. Fite-Morgan provided a written opinion to that effect to Mr. Trapp and Dr. Kitts prior to today's meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Page, second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 11:09 a.m. for a short break and entered into executive session at approximately 11:17. Ms. Fite-Morgan, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Thornton remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and the Board during this closed session.

Upon motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Buchanan, and unanimous vote, the Board closed its executive session at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened in regular session. Mr. Trapp reported that the Board had no action items to present from its discussions.

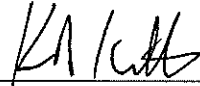
MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Anderson, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Approved June 12, 2026



President Pro Tempore



Secretary