

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FLORENCE, ALABAMA
9:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2026

The Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama met on Friday, June 12, 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.

In a departure from past practice upon guidance from the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel, official letters from the Governor calling Trustees together are not required for regularly scheduled Board meetings.

On June 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 9:04 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, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, 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. Doug Barrett, Interim Dean of the Sanders College of Business and Technology
- Dr. Vince Brewton, Dean of the Cole Honors College
- 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, 2026-2027 Student Government Association President
- Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the Spencer College of Education and Human Sciences

- Dr. Tera Kirkman, Dean of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Dr. Tom Lukowicz, 2026-2027 Faculty Senate President
- Mr. John McGee, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning
- Dr. Amber Paulk, Deputy Provost
- Ms. Regina Sherrill, Senior Executive Assistant to the President for Administration
- Ms. Julie Taylor, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Ms. Barbie Terry, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
- Mr. Chris Vlahos, alumni engagement consultant
- Mr. Randall Watts, University Librarian
- Dr. Ryan Zayac, Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering

News media present: *TimesDaily* reporter Bernie Delinski.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Trapp submitted the following items for consideration for collective approval:

- A. Minutes of March 13, 2026, Quarterly Board Meeting**
- B. Resolution Endorsing the University of North Alabama's Free Speech Compliance Report for Academic Year 2025-2026 Pursuant to Section 16-68-5 of the Code of Alabama**
- C. Resolution of Commendation to Justin Carter, 2025-2026 Faculty Senate President, University of North Alabama**
- D. Resolution of Commendation to Alex Rhoades, 2025-2026 Student Government Association President, University of North Alabama**
- E. Resolution of Commendation to Anna Leigh Rossi, 2025-2026 Staff Senate President, University of North Alabama**

Upon motion by Mr. Buchanan and second by Mr. Page, the consent agenda items listed above were approved separately and severally by unanimous vote.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Kitts gave a brief summary on the state of the University from a prepared text. His focus was on three significant developments since the last Board meeting in March:

1. Ribbon cutting for new Hadrian manufacturing plant in adjacent Colbert County
 - Anticipated substantial economic impact on northwest Alabama region
 - UNA discussions already underway with Hadrian and site owner/developer AE Shoals on partnership opportunities for workforce development

2. Close of 2026 Alabama legislative session
 - Additional success with Progress 208 initiative
 - Total state appropriation for fiscal year 2026-2027 more than double the level of state funding a decade ago
3. Congressman Robert Aderholt's \$7 million funding earmark in next fiscal year's federal budget to assist with Pine Street safety project

Dr. Kitts also noted that when Trustees next gather in September, the University will be celebrating two significant milestones – i.e., the close of the highly successful “Shine On, Gold” campaign, and the opening of Bank Independent Stadium.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

As committee chair, Mr. Anderson presented action items covered in this committee's June 11 meeting that were on the agenda today for the full Board's consideration:

A. Resolution Approving a Micro-Credential in the Area of Artificial Intelligence Applications in Business

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. Smith, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Resolution Approving the Addition of an Accelerated Master's Program in History

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. Russell, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Approving the Addition of a Certificate in Business and Sustainability in the Department of Geoscience

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.

D. Resolution Approving the Addition of a Musical Theatre Concentration to the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts and Theatre Degree

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 Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Anderson also highlighted informational topics covered in this committee's June 11 meeting, including:

- Inactivation of several academic programs (*one accelerated master's, one joint MBA/MS, one bachelor of science, one associate's degree, and eight certificate programs*) due to insufficient demand and enrollment

- Enrollment update --- record spring headcount --- positive outlook for fall
- Academic quality markers --- 16 Fulbright award winners since 2017
- Update on strategic plan accomplishments
- Plans to break ground on new engineering building this fall

VII. ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MATTERS

As committee chair, Ms. Whitaker presented two items from the June 11 committee discussions that were on the agenda for the full Board at today's meeting:

A. Resolution Approving Revised Naming Policy for Donor-Directed Gifts

Following summary comments by Ms. Whitaker, with the recommendation of the Advancement and University Relations Committee and upon motion by Ms. Whitaker and second by Mr. Buchanan, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Update on UNA Foundation and University Endowments

There has been substantial growth in the total endowment over the past several years. The portfolio continues to produce a pleasing 19-20% return on an annual basis. There were no questions concerning this information item, and it required no action by the Board.

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

- Concluding celebration for "Shine On, Gold" campaign planned for September (\$100 million goal already met)
- Progress on this year's Advancement goals as to gifts received and number of unique donors
- Consultant engaged to assist with development of alumni engagement/relations strategic plan

VIII. CAMPUS LIFE AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MATTERS

As committee chair, Mr. Pierce reported on an array of informational topics covered during this committee's June 11 meeting. These included:

- Continued planning for UNA's bicentennial celebration in 2030
- Special events planned for student engagement over the week before fall classes start
- SGA work and activities
- UNA sports teams' successes over the past year
 - Overall 3.28 GPA for student-athletes
 - UNA's 995 Academic Progress Rate (APR) was highest in ASUN Conference
- Excitement and momentum around anticipated opening of Bank Independent Stadium --- robust season ticket sales --- all suites sold --- increase in Lions Athletic Club membership

The committee had two action items to present at today's meeting.

A. Resolution Approving Updated "Discrimination and Harassment Policy"

Following summary comments by Mr. Pierce, with the recommendation of the Campus Life and Athletics Committee and upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Russell, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Resolution Authorizing the University to Enter into an Agreement with the United Athletic Consortium, Inc.

Following summary comments by Mr. Pierce, with the recommendation of the Campus Life and Athletics Committee and upon motion by Mr. Pierce and second by Mr. Page, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

The information item on today's agenda – **Preview of Fall Campus Housing Options and Occupancy Levels** – had been reviewed in the committee setting the previous day, and there were no further questions concerning this at today's meeting. Mr. Pierce noted that all 2,379 university housing beds are currently assigned, with another 55 students on a waiting list for this fall.

IX. FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Mr. Abroms reported on topics covered in this committee's June 11 meeting. On the agenda today for the full Board were:

A. Review of Financial Information for Quarter Ending March 31, 2026

Revenue and expenditures are in line with forecast projections for the second quarter of the fiscal year. An infusion of one-time state funding has allowed for elimination of any deficit in the FY 2025-2026 budget. 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 Proposed University Tuition and Fees for the 2026-2027 Academic Year

In his summary comments, Mr. Abroms pointed out that the last tuition increase was in 2022, and only a modest increase of \$10 per undergraduate credit hour is proposed for the coming year in order to cover inflationary costs. This increase of approximately 2% is below the rate of inflation and is 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. Russell, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Resolution Authorizing Expenditures

Mr. Abroms shared summary comments concerning a spending request for a vendor contract that exceeds the threshold for requiring Board approval. With the recommendation of the Finance, Facilities, and Personnel Committee and upon motion by Mr. Abroms and second by Ms. Sanford, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Information Items

Mr. Abrams noted two additional items brought forward by the Committee, neither of which required any action by the Board:

- (1) 2024-2025 Audit Report** – This latest financial review conducted by an independent external auditor was shared with Trustees and is posted on the UNA website. Auditors attended the preceding day's committee meeting and noted that there were no adverse findings in the audit review.
- (2) Public Posting of Financial Disclosure Information** – This information item is provided in the meeting materials as a part of each June agenda.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Resolution Adopting a Revised Official University Seal

Following summary comments by Mr. Trapp, upon motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mr. Abrams, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Trustees Annual Reaffirmation of Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Duties

This is a standing item on each June meeting agenda. Board members collectively acknowledged their fiduciary role with the University by submitting signed individual reaffirmation statements at the conclusion of the meeting. These signed statements will be held on file in the President's Office as documentation in support of compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards.

C. Results of 2026 Board of Trustees Self-Assessment Survey

Trustees were provided with the survey results in the package of materials for today's meeting. Mr. Trapp thanked Board members for participating in the recent self-evaluation process and encouraged them to study the responses and comments. He noted there clearly is a high level of mutual trust and respect among Trustees. This item required no action by the Board at today's meeting.

D. Report from Committee to Nominate 2026-2028 President Pro Tempore and Vice President Pro Tempore of the UNA Board of Trustees

Mr. Trapp expressed appreciation to his fellow Trustees and to Dr. Kitts for their assistance and support over the past four years that he has served as the Board's presiding officer. The nominating committee of Mr. Page and Mr. Russell submitted the recommendation that Ms. Sanford and Mr. Smith be elected to the 2026-2028 two-year term to serve as the Board's President and Vice President Pro Tempore of the Board, respectively. There being no other nominations, the recommendation was approved upon motion by Mr. Page, second by Mr. Buchanan, and a unanimous vote.

XI. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Trapp noted that an executive session was needed to discuss 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 legal issues and the ramifications of any 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. Russell, second by Mr. Smith, and a unanimous vote, the meeting recessed at 10:28 a.m. for a short break, and the Board entered into executive session at approximately 10:40. Mr. Cochran, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Fite-Morgan, and Dr. Smith remained in the room with Dr. Kitts and Trustees during the closed session.

Upon motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Trapp, and unanimous vote, the Board closed its executive session at 11:28 a.m. and reconvened in regular session.

XII. REPORT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Mr. Trapp reported that the Board had two action items to present from its discussions, both of which are in response to a legal mandates outlined in Act 2026-432 of the Alabama Legislature:

Resolution of Action for Compliance with Act 2026-432 of the Alabama Legislature Regarding Approval of Courses and Curriculum

Upon motion by Mr. Buchanan and second by Mr. Anderson, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution of Actions for Compliance with Act 2026-432 of the Alabama Legislature Regarding (A) the Role of the Faculty Senate, and (B) Tenure and Post-Tenure Review

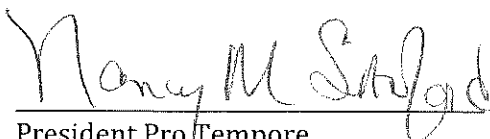
Upon motion by Mr. Page and second by Mr. Russell, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

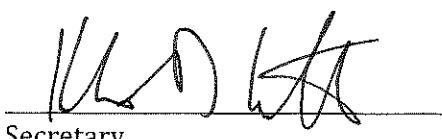
Mr. Trapp emphasized that the Board reaffirms its commitment to shared governance; values the work of the Faculty, Staff, and SGA Senates; and looks forward to a collaborative process to ensure compliance with this legislation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon motion by Mr. Smith, second by Ms. Berry, and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Approved September 18, 2026


President Pro Tempore


Secretary