

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

MARCH 26, 2020

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA

AUBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Telephone conference instructions to join by phone:

(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 230 117 704

1. Status Update from University Administration on COVID-19 (Jay Gogue)

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE
AUBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020, AT 1:00 P.M.
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL

As *President Pro Tempore* of the Auburn University Board of Trustees, Mr. Wayne Smith convened the Special Called Meeting via telephone conference call at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2020, for an update from President Gogue on COVID-19. The *President Pro Tempore* welcomed members of the public and the news media who joined in, and offered a couple of reminders as follows: First, the dial-in number used by the public is listen-only so that members of the Board may both hear and be heard for our discussion. Second, it was noted that today's call was for information purposes only. Since there were no action items or deliberations, it is was not necessary to call the roll or establish a quorum. *President Pro Tempore* Smith then called upon President Gogue for an update from the University Administration on COVID-19.

Update from President Jay Gogue

Dr. Gogue welcomed everyone and indicated there would be four brief presentations, including himself. He informed the Board that all hourly employees and students are being paid through the end of the semester. He also indicated that all classes have converted to remote delivery. Dr. Gogue then informed everyone that in the beginning, there were a few glitches, but the system is now working great. He also indicated that most of the students have been vacated from residence halls with the exception of a few international students and students with medical issues who are now receiving boxed meals.

Dr. Gogue informed everyone that all employees have been given the flexibility to work from home when possible and where working from home is not possible, Auburn University has certainly tried to be very compassionate by adjusting policies in order to be flexible. Then, Dr. Gogue indicated that the faculty groups have been extraordinary in offering their advice, feedback, and their services. Dr. Gogue then announced that Senior Vice President Bobby Woodard, Provost Bill Hardgrave, and Executive Vice President Ron Burgess would give reports.

Update from Senior Vice President Bobby Woodard

Dr. Woodard reported that most students have been vacated from residence halls with the exception of a few international students and students with medical issues. All students who remain in the residence halls are receiving boxed meals. Dr. Woodard then reported that Student Affairs is providing mental health consultation and Auburn Recovery meetings virtually. He also indicated that student leader meetings are continuing via Zoom meetings. Dr. Woodard announced that a food pantry is currently open and feeding about twenty-five families/individuals per week. Dr. Woodard then discussed the Parent Family Programs which held a live webinar via Facebook Live on March 18, 2020, with almost 5,000 viewers.

In conclusion, Dr. Woodard informed everyone that Student Affairs, in partnership with the Office of the Provost and the Auburn University Bookstore, has been able to facilitate the distribution of wireless hotspots to provide internet access to students in need. Dr. Woodard informed everyone that some of the wireless hotspots have gone to students in rural areas where no internet service providers

operate, and the University will continue to provide devices of all types to aid students in online instruction.

Update from Provost Bill Hardgrave

Provost Hardgrave reported the following timeline concerning remote learning: On the Friday before Spring Break, Auburn University announced that the plan was to have all faculty teach at least one class remotely during the week after Spring Break. Then, on March 13, 2020, the decision was made to go completely remote and fully functioning by March 16, 2020. Provost Hardgrave reported that this decision saved Auburn University from shutting down for 1-2 weeks like most major universities in the country had to do as a result of not being prepared.

Provost Hardgrave then reported on the magnitude of changes made in just one week including 5,000 classes converted to remote delivery and 2,000 faculty teaching remotely with 70% never teaching a course remotely. He informed everyone that from March 16-25, 2020 over 7,000 exams were given via online proctoring. Dr. Hardgrave announced that remote instruction will continue through at least the first two summer sessions (10-week session and the first 5-week session). He thanked the Faculty for outstanding work in assisting in the remote delivery of instruction, and that there will be a request for an extension for the tenure track for those faculty members' research progress being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provost Hardgrave also reported that the drop date for courses has been extended to the final date of the semester and that students may elect to use the grade flexibility plan in place which allows for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade options. The Provost concluded by reporting that Spring Commencement ceremonies are being postponed and will be combined with the Summer Commencements in August.

Update from Executive Vice President Ron Burgess

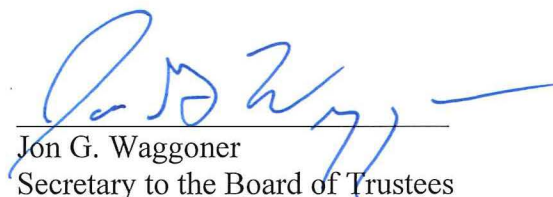
Executive Vice President Burgess complimented the outstanding support of the Auburn University faculty and staff. He expressed that they have stepped up in huge ways, in fact, as well as any workforce General Burgess has encountered in his career. General Burgess relayed that Auburn employees are a living testament to the Auburn University Creed.

General Burgess next discussed the timeline of working with administrators in preparing Auburn University for the pandemic to include early preparations in January until present day. He informed everyone that the intent was to have Auburn University functioning as a whole unit to preserve the safety of students, faculty, and staff. He explained that the goal of the meetings was to allow the administration adequate time to deal with arising situations and to have operating groups report in a proactive way. Previous preparation continues to facilitate our work on issues prior to the development of major problems. We continue to review internal and external plans daily.

Reporting as to Outreach, Executive Vice President Burgess informed everyone that Auburn University is assisting the community with hospital needs, facilitators, and masks. General Burgess confirmed that Auburn University is working to adjust and refine as they move forward with all campus construction work. He informed everyone that there is no impact to the work or projects currently underway, and business operations will continue. He concluded by stating that the goal of Auburn University is to do all that is possible in order to protect the students and employees, to come out stronger than before, and to embody the Creed. He thanked the Board for their continued interest and care during this time.

President Pro Tempore Smith thanked everyone for their informative updates and announced that the Board will recess until the next specially called telephone meeting on April 3, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon G. Waggoner
Secretary to the Board of Trustees