

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

MAY 7, 2020

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA**

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Telephone conference instructions to join by phone:*

*(312) 626-6799*

*Meeting ID: 452-787-9439*

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, MAY 7, 2020, AT 10:00 A.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 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2020, for an update from President Gogue and the Auburn University senior administration regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. *President Pro Tempore* Smith welcomed participating members of the public and news media and offered reminders as follows: First, he noted that the dial-in number used by the public was listen-only so that members of the Board and meeting participants may both hear and be heard for the discussion. Second, it was noted that today's call was for information purposes only. *President Pro Tempore* Smith explained that since there were no action items or deliberations, it was not necessary to call the roll or establish a quorum.

*President Pro Tempore* Smith indicated that the unprecedented events of the past months have deeply affected everyone, significantly altering lives, jobs, businesses, and the economy. He indicated that students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders have made great sacrifices and they are sincerely appreciated. *President Pro Tempore* Smith added that Auburn University, though altered for the short term, remains tremendously active in its educational, research and outreach missions. *President Pro Tempore* Smith thanked everyone for continuing to do an outstanding job in an extremely complex environment. *President Pro Tempore* Smith then called upon President Gogue for an update from the University Administration on the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Update from Dr. Jay Gogue, President**

Dr. Gogue welcomed everyone and indicated there would be six brief presentations, including himself. He informed the Board of Trustees that Auburn University employees have been extremely professional and helpful during this pandemic. Dr. Gogue stated that he has been honored to work with all of the faculty, staff, students, and administration of Auburn University.

Dr. Gogue then reported that Auburn University continues to be compliant with State and Federal government oversight, the rules and regulations of regional accreditors, and all Auburn University Board of Trustees policies and procedures. He then reported that the financial health of Auburn University is in good condition as the administrative internal groups have done an excellent job in conservative management. He thanked Ms. Kelli Shomaker, Vice President for Business and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and her staff for their outstanding work with handling the financial assets of the University. He indicated that Dr. Bill Hardgrave, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, has worked tirelessly to accommodate students during these uncertain times. Dr. Gogue also reported that Dr. Hardgrave has been working on plans to have students return for in-person instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. Finally, Dr. Gogue announced that the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES), the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), the Auburn University Alumni Association, and the Auburn University Office of Development are continuing to work in an uninhibited status towards the betterment of Auburn students and stakeholders.

Dr. Gogue then announced that Dr. Carl Stockton, Chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery; Dr. Bill Hardgrave, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; General Ronald Burgess, Executive Vice President; and Mr. Dan King, Associate Vice President for Facilities would give reports.

#### **Update from Dr. Carl Stockton, Chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery**

Dr. Stockton indicated that Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) has been working closely with Auburn University throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Stockton reported that he was very proud of the AUM employees as they have worked extremely hard and consistently throughout the crisis. He announced that AUM has assembled a planning committee to examine issues related to returning to campus for in-person instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. Dr. Stockton also indicated that AUM's Summer 2020 enrollment is comparable to last summer's enrollment with the expectation for enrollment to match or exceed last summer's numbers. Dr. Stockton also reported that the number of fall-admitted students has increased by 19 percent compared to last year; however, many students have not committed and registered for the Fall 2020 term due to tremendous uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of certainty for in-person instruction for the upcoming semester. Dr. Stockton reported that AUM plans to release information about scholarships and financial support for students returning to campus for face-to-face instruction in the fall pending the state public health recommendations.

Dr. Stockton announced that student stimulus funds from the CARES ACT—totaling \$2.5 million—will be released to qualified students as soon as possible. He then reported that AUM received an additional \$2.5 million in institutional support due to the COVID-19 pandemic from the CARES ACT. He stated that AUM is continuing to assess the financial loss that AUM has incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Stockton reported that Baptist Health has expressed appreciation to AUM for allowing nurses who are working closely with COVID-19 patients to stay in AUM residence halls through the summer, so they do not have to go home and risk exposure to their families. Dr. Stockton concluded his report by indicating that AUM will hold a joint commencement ceremony for Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 graduates on August 15, 2020.

#### **Update from Dr. Bill Hardgrave, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dr. Hardgrave began his report by lauding the faculty for their remarkable transition during these unprecedented times. He explained that that following spring break, more than 2,000 faculty adjusted over 5,000 courses to accommodate remote instruction. Dr. Hardgrave then reported that 4,538 degrees were awarded in total for the Spring 2020 graduating class: 3,443 undergraduate degrees, 124 doctoral degrees, 720 master's degrees, 136 pharmacy degrees, and 115 veterinary medicine degrees. Dr. Hardgrave then indicated that due the postponement of the spring commencement ceremony, a special graduation gift box was sent to all graduates containing two copies of the Spring 2020 graduation program, a mortarboard, a tassel, a copy of the Auburn University Creed, as well as other items. Dr. Hardgrave reported that Spring 2020 graduates were offered an opportunity to participate in the summer commencement ceremony on August 8 and 9, 2020, and that 92 percent of those invited indicated that they plan to participate.

Dr. Hardgrave then reported that enrollment for Summer 2020 is strong and that, compared to last year, the number of students and credit hours has increased. Dr. Hardgrave concluded by reporting that the plan is to have students on campus for the Fall 2020 semester for in-person instruction and that the University is also working on contingency plans, as well.

#### **Update from General Ronald Burgess, Executive Vice President**

General Burgess praised the faculty and staff for their outstanding level of operation during these times and said that the commitment to the University exemplifies the Auburn University Creed. General Burgess announced that the main campus has been shut down since March 11, 2020, with classes transitioning to remote instruction and faculty and staff members working from home, as able. He reported that these guidelines were recently extended until June 30, 2020. He then explained that the University is in the process of creating plans for the post-June 30<sup>th</sup> period with hopes to announce the plans at the beginning of June. General Burgess concluded his report by indicating that Auburn University remains focused on the safety and welfare of its students, faculty, and staff.

#### **Update from Dr. Bobby Woodard, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs**

Dr. Woodard indicated that Student Affairs has continued to work tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Woodard reported that the Auburn University Food Pantry has been able to serve approximately 45 families each week. He also reported that Auburn University Student Counseling Services has maintained contact with existing clients and that new clients are being added. Dr. Woodard announced that the Auburn University Office of Student Involvement has been featured nationally by Campus Intelligence for its efforts in transitioning to virtual organization management for Auburn University's 519 student organizations. Dr. Woodard reported that University Housing is currently at 99 percent occupancy for the Fall 2020 semester and that two residence halls (Halls L and M in the Hill Resident Complex) have been designated as isolation halls if needed. Finally, Dr. Woodard provided an update on Camp War Eagle. He reported that the Office of Student Affairs hosted a webinar to explain the new format for the Summer 2020 Camp War Eagle sessions and that the webinar has been viewed over 8,000 times. He indicated that during the first three days of registration, 3,924 students registered for Camp War Eagle which matches last year's registration. He reported that at the time of the call, 4,227 students had registered for Camp War Eagle with 52 percent of attendees being in-state and 48 percent of attendees being out-of-state.

#### **Update from Mr. Dan King, Associate Vice President for Facilities**

Mr. King reported that all of Auburn's construction projects are continuing as scheduled. He explained that the Governor's orders have not put any restrictions on construction projects throughout the state, including Auburn University. As a result, all of the University's capital projects have been proceeding "full steam ahead" throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. King also reported that he is not aware of any contamination or infection issues among the major construction contractors who work on campus.

Mr. King concluded his report by sharing that many of the contractors have reported that the private market for negotiated work has slowed down greatly with many projects on hold, thus Auburn may experience more favorable pricing in the next year.

President Gogue then informed *President Pro Tempore* Smith that this concluded the reports from the Administration.

*President Pro Tempore* Smith thanked everyone for their informative updates and announced that the Board will recess until the Annual Meeting. *President Pro Tempore* Smith indicated that the June 5, 2020 Annual Meeting will likely be moved to July 9, 2020 and will be conducted via telephone conference call. He announced that the details for the Annual Meeting will be announced before the end of May. With that, the meeting was recessed at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon G. Waggoner  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees