Minutes
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
TROY University
Chancellor's Conference Room – 216 Adams Admin. Bldg.
Troy, Alabama 36082

The Troy University Board of Trustees convened at 2:00 p.m. on May 8, 2025, at Troy, Alabama.

I. Call to Order

Board President Pro Tempore Gibson Vance called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

II. Roll Call

At the request of President Pro Tem Vance, the following members, comprising a quorum, answered present:

Mrs. Karen Carter, Gen. Ed Crowell, Sen. Gerald Dial, Mr. Roy Drinkard, Mayor Earl Johnson, Mr. Forrest Latta, Mr. Charles Nailen, Mr. Freddie Thomas, Mr. Gibson Vance, Sen. Cam Ward Mr. Caleb Smith

Absent: Governor Kay Ivey, Mr. John Harrison

President Pro Tem Vance called on Trustee Karen Carter for opening prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

A draft copy of the minutes from the March 1, 2025 meeting was provided to the members of the Board of Trustees prior to the meeting for review.

ACTION: TRUSTEE CROWELL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 1, 2025 MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE WERE NO CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS BROUGHT FORWARD. FOLLOWING A SECOND BY TRUSTEE NAILEN. THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED,

IV. Reports

President Pro Tem Vance called upon Chancellor Hawkins to introduce a special presentation. Before beginning the video presentation, Chancellor Hawkins recognized five past and current SGA Presidents in attendance: Sen. Cam Ward, Mr. William Filmore, Mr. Theo Thoenes, Ms. Betsy Bennett, and incoming SGA President Mr. Caleb Smith.

Mr. Thoenes shared an inspiring video of highlights from the 2025 ATO Walk Hard, a 128-mile trek from Troy, Alabama to Pier Park in Panama City Beach Florida. ATO exceeded this year's goal and raised $140,000 for Jeep Sullivan's Wounded Warrior Ministry.

A. Chancellor

The following is an outline of the Chancellor's Report.

- Enrollment and Stewardship
- Challenges
  - Declining Confidence in Higher Ed
  - Demographic Cliff – 8.5% drop in freshmen enrollment Fall 24
  - 892 university closures/9499 campus closures
  - Student debt all-time high
  - DoE to penalize institutions if excessive default
- Legislative Trends
  - At least 22 states have banned DEI offices
  - Utah/Ohio - Directives to align academic programs w/ needs of workforce
  - Ohio – Requiring universities to eliminate programs that produce fewer than 5 grads per year over 3 years
  - Arkansas – Tenured faculty must be evaluated at least once per year
- Enrollment
  - Target Audiences:
    - Traditional Students
    - Dual Enrollment
    - Grad Students
    - Online Students
    - International Students
- Goal: Market Ready Graduates!
- Alabama's Leadership University
- New Branding: Authenticity
  - Gen Z: 13-28 years old
  - Tired of "Fake News"
  - Seeking authenticity & realism
- Embracing AI
  - Center for AI Research and Education Established
- Academic Excellence
  - Doctoral Degree Reclassification
  - College Reorganization
    - College of Arts & Humanities
    - College of Education & Behavioral Sciences
    - College of Science & Engineering

- Workforce Development
  - Criminology Ph.D.
  - Electrical Engineering BS
- Attract Best & Brightest: Global Scholars Program
- Ratings
- Commitment to Financial Sustainability
- The Path Forward
  - Road to R2
  - Jones Hall
    - Gala in the Fall
- Establishment of School of Chiropractic Medicine Timeline

- Indoor Practice Facility
  - Facility: Debt Free, August 1st
- Alabama's Most Beautiful Campus!
- Campus Life
- Dates to Remember
  - Commencements
  - Trustee Football Trip – November 13th @ ODU
- Thank you to Betsy for a job well done!

B. Board Committee Reports

- **<u>Student Affairs Committee,</u> Honorable Cam Ward**

President Pro Tem Vance called on Trustee Ward for an update from the Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Ward provided background for Resolution No. 1.

Resolution No. 1

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF EDUCATION BROADBAND SERVICE (EBS) LICENSES

WHEREAS, Troy University owns three FCC licenses in the Educational Broadband Service (EBS) spectrum—WND247, WND597, and WND483—in the 2.5 GHz band, a spectrum historically reserved for educational institutions to transmit instructional content; and

WHEREAS, the EBS spectrum was opened to broadband services in the mid-2000s, allowing license holders to lease unused capacity to third-party commercial operators; and

WHEREAS, Troy University's use of the EBS spectrum had significantly declined as distance education transitioned from video teleconferencing to internet-based delivery, leading the University to enter into a lease agreement in 2005 with Clearwire, which was later acquired by Sprint in 2013, and subsequently by T-Mobile, the current operator; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) revised its rules to permit commercial entities to hold EBS licenses directly; and

WHEREAS, T-Mobile has offered to purchase the University's EBS licenses for $1.9 million; and

WHEREAS, Troy University is governed by its Board of Trustees pursuant to Title 16-56-1-7, Code of Alabama, 1975; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Trustees has been empowered, by virtue of Title 16-56-7, Code of Alabama, 1975 on behalf of Troy University to hold and dispose of any property, or any interest in any property, real or personal, from any source, at any time, and upon any terms as it might deem in the best interest of Troy University;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Troy University hereby authorizes the University to execute the sale agreement with T-Mobile for the transfer of EBS licenses WND247, WND597, and WND483, and to take all necessary and appropriate actions to complete the transaction.

ACTION: TRUSTEE WARD INTRODUCED RESOLUTION NO. 1 IN THE FORM OF A MOTION TO ADOPT. TRUSTEE DIAL PROVIDED A SECOND TO THE MOTION. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Trustee Ward called upon Troy University Chief of Police Beaudry for a Campus safety and security briefing.

Contents of Chief Beaudry's report include:

- Cleary Report
- Steps taken to promote safe environment on campus
- Breakdown of personnel
- Training
- Partnerships with outside law enforcement
- Exercise planning for the future

Trustee Ward thanked Chief Beaudry for his great work.

Trustee Ward called on outgoing SGA President Betsy Bennett for comments and introduced Resolution No. 2

Resolution No. 2

COMMENDING BETSY BENNETT FOR SERVICE AS SGA PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, Betsy Bennett served as President of the Troy University Student Government Association for the 2024-2025 academic year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett has shown outstanding leadership qualities and has played an integral role in the progress of Troy University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett's administration was marked by her devotion to serving as a passionate advocate for the student; and
WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett exhibited the highest level of integrity and competence in her dealings with the administration, particularly the division of Student Services;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett has done an outstanding job of representing the student body on the Board of Trustees, among the faculty and staff and in the greater community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett's term as SGA President comes to an end during spring semester 2025, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby recognizes Ms. Betsy Bennett for hard work and exemplary leadership of the Student Government Association and wishes her the best for future success.

ACTION: TRUSTEE WARD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2. TRUSTEE CROWELL PROVIDED A SECOND TO THE MOTION. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

- **Academic Affairs Committee, Honorable Karen Carter**

President Pro Tem Vance called on Trustee Carter for a report from the Academic Affairs Committee. Mrs. Carter reported the committee met in April and called on Dr. Kerry Palmer, Provost, and Dr. LaGary Carter, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, to provide an update from Academic Affairs. Dr. Carter reported the accelerated masters in nursing targeting the Dothan area and a bridge program for licensed practical nurse to associate degree nurse on the Montgomery campus.

There were no action items from the Academic Affairs Committee.

- **Finance Committee, Honorable Charles Nailen**

President Pro Tem Vance called on the Finance Committee to report.

Trustee Nailen provided brief comments and turned the report over to Dr. Jim Bookout, Senior Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs and Online Education to provide the financial report on 2026 Revenue Projections.

Report contents:

- 2025 Progress to Date
- 2026 Revenue Considerations
- History of State Appropriations
- 2026 Credit Hour Production Analysis
- 2026 Preliminary Revenue Budget- Comparison of Current and Prior Year
- History of Undergraduate Tuition Rate Changes

Dr. Bookout called on Dr. Greg Price, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology to provide the cybersecurity awareness report and 2024 Summary.

- **Institutional Advancement Committee, Honorable Forrest Latta**

President Pro Tem called on Trustee Latta for a report from the Advancement Committee. Trustee Latta thanked Dr. Hawkins, Mrs. Hawkins, all committee members, Nick Cervera, the advancement office under William Filmore, Dr. Judson Edwards, and Dr. Ed Noriega and his team for their work and input regarding the bequest from Nall Hollis.

Trustee Latta introduced resolution No. 3

Resolution No. 3

AUTHORIZING TROY UNIVERSITY'S ACCEPTANCE OF ESTATE GIFT FROM RENOWNED ARTIST AND FRIEND FRED NALL HOLLIS

WHEREAS, Fred Nall Hollis, known professionally and to his friends as the artist "Nall," was born April 21, 1948, in Troy, Alabama, and rose to fame as an artist of international acclaim who trained in Europe under Salvador Dali and other masters, and whose exquisite artworks have been featured in exhibitions in France, Switzerland, Italy, Japan, and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Nall had a deep passion for teaching students and aspiring artists, especially Alabama students, which he pursued through a longstanding relationship with Troy University, and which resulted in Mr. Hollis previously donating many priceless works of art to establish the Nall Art Museum in the International Art Center on the Troy University Campus; and

WHEREAS, many of Nall's paintings, mosaics, sculptures, and other works are on display throughout Alabama in various hotels and offices operated by the public-owned Retirement Systems of Alabama, which agreed to display Nall's work and desires to continue exhibiting those pieces; and

WHEREAS, Fred Nall Hollis died on September 14, 2024, at which time he left a Last Will and Testament bequeathing to Troy University substantially all of his paintings as well as the remainder of his estate including all of the pieces on display in RSA buildings, plus his real estate and all other property and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, Nall's Last Will and Testament directed that "When Dr. Jack Hawkins shall resign, retire or be unable to serve as Chancellor of Troy University, such University will continue to allow Dr. Jack Hawkins and/or Mrs. Janice Hawkins to direct and oversee all matters pertaining to art given to the University by me," and that "Troy University work with Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins to establish a permanent agreement regarding the display of all art and the sale of all prints I donated to Troy University;" and,

WHEREAS, Nall expressed a desire that Troy University use these resources to promote his legacy by keeping and maintaining the Nall Art Museum on the Troy University Campus and by creating a museum and "artist in residency" program at his former art gallery at 414 Equality Street in Fairhope, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Troy University is exceedingly honored by Nall's bequest and deems it in the public's interest, as well as the interests of its students and its International Art Center, to accept this bequest on the terms expressed in Nall's will, provided it is financially feasible and in the public's best interest; and

WHEREAS, Troy University desires to facilitate Mr. Hollis' testamentary wishes while ensuring that the estate's assets be conserved and used for the university's educational programs, provided such programs can be internally financed from the Estate's assets and not Troy's operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has been advised that the Troy University Foundation has agreed to establish a NALL Institute, LLC, under the oversight of a Board of Directors who shall serve at the University's pleasure, to administer the artist in residency and pursue all appropriate business opportunities associated with the Nall artwork for the sole benefit of Troy University and its students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Troy University authorizes its Chancellor to accept the testamentary gift from the Estate of Fred Nall Hollis, on the terms and conditions set forth above with the expectation and understanding that Troy University shall see to it that these assets are used to serve Troy's educational mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to facilitate the aims of this resolution, the Board of Trustees of Troy University deems it appropriate and in the public interest to authorize its Chancellor to transfer to the Troy University Foundation all of the artwork and personality in the Nall estate but retain title and ownership of any and all real estate interests therein.

ACTION: TRUSTEE LATTA PROPOSED ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 3. TRUSTEE JOHNSON PROVIDED A SECOND TO THE MOTION. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

Trustee Latta called on Mr. William Filmore to provide a report on activities in Advancement. Mr. Filmore provided a brief overview of the following:

- Legislative Session
  - State Appropriation Estimates for FY2026
  - Federal Requests
- Sponsored Programs
- Development and Alumni
- Fundraising Update

- **Athletic Policy Committee, Honorable Ed Crowell**

Trustee Crowell thanked Mr. Brent Jones, Director of Athletics, for his hard work for Athletics and the University and asked him to provide the report from the Athletic Policy Committee.

Highlights of Mr. Jones report include:

- Achievements - Classroom
  - 59 student-athletes to graduate in the spring (79 graduated in the fall) making this the largest graduating class in Troy University Athletics' history
  - Collective GPA of 3.19 for our student-athletes in Term 3
  - 212 student athletes with a 3.0 GPA or higher
  - Highest Graduation Success Rate at 86%
  - 12 of our 15 sports had a 3.0 GPA or higher
  - Five teams posted a 3.5 or higher GPA:
  - Volleyball, Women's Tennis, Softball, Women's Golf and Women's Cross Country
  - Seven additional teams had a 3.0 or higher GPA:
    - Baseball, Men's Golf, Soccer, Men's Tennis, Men's Cross Country, Men's Track and Women's Track
- Achievements - Community
  - Trojans in the Community
  - Performed over 5,000 community service hours - most in department history
  - Day of Service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  - Each team is extremely active – recent example: Miracle League Opening Night at Riddle-Pace Field with representatives from all teams present

- Study Abroad Initiatives
- Provide all student-athletes an opportunity
- Funding generated through the car tag initiative, the annual yard sale held at T-Day and sport fundraising efforts
- Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball and Volleyball recently completed
- Men's Tennis upcoming trip this Summer to Mexico
- Focused on Central America and South America

- Achievements – On the Playing Field
  - Men's Basketball finished the regular season as SBC champions and went on to win the SBC tournament before playing Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament, for the first time since 2017. The team finished 23-11 which marks the 4th straight 20-win season.
  - Women's basketball finished as runner-up in the WNIT championship and concluded their season 24-14 for the 10th straight season of 18 plus victories.
  - Softball is currently 27-20 and ranked 80th in NCAA.
  - Baseball is off to their best start ever with an overall record of 26-11, 2nd in the SBC, and ranked 18th in NCAA. The team has not lost a series all season long and has been the only G-5 team to be ranked all season long. This is the longest our baseball program has ever been ranked.
  - Men's golf is ranked 49th in the NCAA which leads the SBC-- one of the best seasons we have ever had. We look to make the NCAA regionals for the first time since 2017.
  - Women's Golf is ranked 148th- 8th in SBC
  - Track and Field- last two meets we have either won or finished 2nd.
  - Men's Tennis- 19-7 and 4-3 in SBC.
  - Women's Tennis- 11-8 and 6-4 in SBC.

V. New Business

Senator Dial made a motion for the President Pro Tem appoint a real estate commission to work with administrative staff to dispose of property in Phenix City.

ACTION: TRUSTEE DIAL MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT A REAL ESTATE COMMISSION TO WORK WITH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TO DISPOSE OF PROPERTY IN PHENIX CITY. GENERAL CROWELL MADE A SECOND TO THE MOTION. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

VI. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, President Pro Tem Gibson called for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Dial seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D.
Chancellor, Troy University
and Secretary, Board of Trustees

C. Gibson Vance
President Pro Tempore
Troy University Board of Trustees