DRAFT MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

TROY UNIVERSITY

Jones Hall Dean's Conference Room

September 12, 2026

The Troy University Board of Trustees convened at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, 2026, in Troy, Alabama.

I. Call to Order

Board President Pro Tempore Gibson Vance called the meeting to order.

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, Mayor Earl Johnson, Mr. Forrest Latta, Mr. Charles Nailen, Mr. Freddie Thomas, Mr. Gibson Vance, Sen. Cam Ward, Mr. Chris Hood

Absent: Governor Kay Ivey, Mr. John Harrison

President Pro Tem Vance welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for attending. He then called on Trustee Karen Carter to offer the opening prayer. Trustee Carter reflected on the life and service of the late Trustee Roy Drinkard. A moment of silence was observed in his memory.

III. Approval of Minutes

A draft of minutes from the May 13, 2026, meeting was distributed to the members of the Board of Trustees prior to the meeting for review.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026, meeting as presented. Trustee Thomas seconded the motion. There being no corrections or additions, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

IV. Presentations

V. Reports

President Pro Tem Vance called upon Chancellor Hawkins for the Chancellor's report:

- ## Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Hawkins expressed appreciation to members of the Board, University leadership, student representatives, and guests in attendance, recognizing their service and contributions to the University.

The Chancellor noted that the University is preparing to celebrate its **140th Anniversary.** He recalled the University's 125th anniversary celebration and noted that activities are being planned leading up to a

culminating celebration in February. The committee overseeing the anniversary observance has adopted the theme **"Think, Feel, Act: A Legacy That Matters,"** reflecting the University's longstanding motto and its commitment to building upon its history and legacy.

The Chancellor acknowledged the significant challenges currently facing higher education nationally and emphasized that the manner in which an institution responds to challenges is more important than the challenges themselves. He encouraged the University community to recognize its strengths and to remain mindful of the institution's many accomplishments and blessings.

The Chancellor stated that the University is built upon a strong foundation, including a distinctive institutional culture characterized by relationships and values and reflected in the principles of faith, family, and freedom. He expressed pride in the University's 140-year history of service and stated that the Troy brand has continued to gain respect, recognition, and visibility nationally.

The Chancellor highlighted the University's growing national brand recognition, including recent recognition of the University's fight song by *USA Today*. He also recognized the significant contribution of Troy Athletics to the University's visibility and national profile, including the baseball program's achievement of reaching the College World Series in Omaha.

The Chancellor further emphasized the strength of the University's academic programs and faculty and stated that the University's academic reputation, combined with its culture, history, brand, and athletic success, provides a strong foundation from which to address the challenges facing higher education.

The Chancellor concluded his remarks by emphasizing the importance of building upon the University's strengths, remaining focused on its mission, and responding strategically to the changing higher education environment. Chancellor Hawkins continued his remarks by highlighting the University's campus as a significant institutional strength. He noted that visitors who have not been on campus in many years frequently comment on the beauty and appearance of the campus. He attributed the campus's condition and continued development to sustained investment, responsible stewardship, and the pride demonstrated by faculty, staff, and students.

The Chancellor emphasized the importance of bringing prospective students to campus, stating that the campus experience can play a significant role in recruitment. He noted that additional campus improvements and academic facilities are planned and expressed appreciation to the Board for its support of these investments.

The Chancellor highlighted several planned capital projects, including the development of laboratories supporting the electrical engineering program and the renovation of Lurleen B. Wallace Hall to provide an updated facility for the School of Journalism. He noted the national recognition of the journalism program and stated that its facilities should reflect the quality of the program.

The Chancellor also discussed plans for a new facility associated with alumni and advancement activities. He emphasized that the facility would serve not only alumni relations but also the University's broader development and fundraising efforts and its future capacity to engage donors and supporters.

Regarding the University's financial position, the Chancellor stated that the University remains financially strong and has substantial reserves. He reported that reserves totaled approximately $256 million, with the potential for an additional increase of approximately $10 million. He emphasized that financial sustainability must remain a guiding principle in preserving the University's existing strengths while also allowing for strategic investments in its future.

The Chancellor noted that the University continues to receive favorable financial ratings and maintains a stable financial position. He emphasized, however, that enrollment remains a significant institutional challenge.

The Chancellor summarized the enrollment challenge as involving two primary areas: recruitment and retention**.** He stated that recruitment efforts must be strategic and should not simply involve increasing scholarship expenditures. Rather, the University must remain aware of the investments and discounting strategies being employed by competing institutions.

The Chancellor emphasized the importance of balancing competitive recruitment strategies with responsible financial stewardship and maintaining the long-term financial sustainability of the University. Chancellor Hawkins continued his remarks by recognizing the service and contributions of University personnel who have assumed additional responsibilities during periods of transition. He noted the importance of maintaining flexibility in staffing so that the eventual successor in a leadership position will have the opportunity to assemble an appropriate leadership team.

The Chancellor expressed appreciation to Dr. Bookout, Dr. Edwards, and Dr. John W. Schmidt for assuming additional responsibilities and providing continuity during the transition. He specifically recognized Dr. Edwards for taking on responsibilities related to enrollment and thanked Dr. Schmidt for returning to assist the University in areas of need. The Chancellor also expressed appreciation to all faculty and administrators who have stepped forward to support the institution during the transition.

The Chancellor then emphasized the importance of the relationship between the University and the City of Troy. He noted that approximately 47% of students identify location as an important consideration in their college decision and in their decision to remain in a community. He emphasized that the strength and growth of the University and the City are closely interconnected.

Referencing the long-standing observation that the success of Troy University and the City of Troy are mutually dependent, the Chancellor stated that the distinction between Troy and surrounding communities is significantly influenced by the presence of the University. He expressed pride in the strong "town-gown" relationship that exists between the University and the City and noted the longstanding connection between the University, its students, alumni, and the community.

The Chancellor emphasized the need for continued community development, including additional activities and amenities that enhance the student experience and contribute to the long-term growth and attractiveness of the community. He stated that these efforts will require long-term planning and collaboration between the University, City leadership, and private-sector partners.

The Chancellor expressed his appreciation for Mayor Jason Reeves's leadership and indicated the University's interest in working with the City to explore public-private partnerships and other opportunities that could contribute to community development. He also recognized Reynolds for his participation and leadership in efforts involving the University and community.

In concluding his remarks, the Chancellor recalled that in 2016 the City of Troy was recognized as one of the top 50 college towns in America. He stated that the University and community should work toward again achieving that level of recognition and distinction.

The Chancellor emphasized the strong relationship between universities and the communities in which they are located, citing examples of nationally recognized college towns where the university and community are closely identified with one another. He stated that the University and City should strive to strengthen the connection between Troy University and the City of Troy, so that recognition of one naturally reinforces recognition of the other.

The Chancellor concluded by emphasizing that the University and community are mutually dependent and that their collective success will require continued collaboration, shared investment, and a commitment to growing together.

The Chancellor introduced Mayor Jason Reeves and guests Reynolds Henderson and Eric Osth of Urban Design Associates to discuss some exciting plans for future development to enhance and strength the town-gown relationship.

Trustee Dial requested a moment of personal privilege related to his authority as President Pro Tem Emeritus.

The Board discussed the possibility of amending the bylaws or Board rules to clarify the role and authority of the President Pro Tem Emeritus. A motion was made to place the matter on the agenda for consideration at the next Board meeting. The Board also discussed the requirement that matters generally be placed on the agenda within the prescribed timeframe and the procedure for considering an item not included on the agenda. A motion was made to take up the matter during the current meeting; the motion failed for lack of the required affirmative vote

Board Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee, Honorable Gibson Vance**

President Pro Tem Vance then proceeded to the Executive Committee report and expressed appreciation to the Trustees for their substantial time, effort, preparation, and research devoted to committee work.

President Pro Tem Vance announced that the Athletic Policy Committee would report first accommodate the schedule of the Director of Athletics.

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

Athletics Report – Mr. Kyle George

Trustee Crowell introduced the athletics portion of the meeting and emphasized the broad reach and positive impact of Troy University athletics. He noted the balanced nature of the University's athletic programs and the importance of maintaining a comprehensive program that supports student-athletes across all sports. Trustee Crowell commended Director of Athletics Kyle George for his leadership and for maintaining compliance with the rules and regulations governing collegiate athletics.

Mr. George provided an overview of the University's recent athletic accomplishments, with particular emphasis on the historic baseball season and the team's appearance in the College World Series in Omaha. He described the team's resilience throughout postseason competition, including its performance following a difficult loss in Montgomery and subsequent victories over South Alabama and Southern Miss before advancing through the Gainesville Regional and ultimately to the Troy Super Regional.

Mr. George emphasized the significant role of the Troy community in supporting the baseball program's postseason success. He recognized the City of Troy and Mayor Jason Reeves for their assistance, as well as other communities and organizations that contributed equipment and logistical support. He noted that the community's collective effort helped create an exceptional atmosphere surrounding the Troy Super Regional and demonstrated the strong relationship between the University and the surrounding community.

The baseball team's appearance in Omaha generated substantial national exposure for Troy University. Mr. George reported that the College World Series attracted more than 21,000 attendees per game and generated significant national viewership, including approximately 1.8 million viewers for Troy's victory over Ole Miss. He noted that the postseason run expanded awareness of Troy University among individuals beyond the University's alumni base and generated significant enthusiasm for the institution. The University subsequently installed a College World Series logo at Riddle-Pace Field as a reminder of the accomplishment and as a symbol of the program's goal of returning to Omaha.

Mr. George also reviewed the estimated advertising value generated by the University's recent athletic success. Based on media analysis conducted by Meltwater and related conference and University efforts, the combined value attributed to the University's March Madness appearances and College World Series run was approximately $566 million in advertising-equivalency value. He noted that Troy's consecutive appearances in March Madness generated more than $1 million in estimated advertising value over the two-year period and that the College World Series appearance produced comparable exposure despite the different overall viewership levels between baseball and basketball.

Mr. George further noted the national recognition resulting from the baseball program's success, including national media attention and commentary regarding Troy University and the team's

postseason performance. He stated that the University was the only non-Power Four institution represented in the referenced national baseball recruiting rankings and expressed the program's aspiration to compete at the highest level nationally.

The Board was informed that the University also experienced significant increases in licensing royalties and other financial and promotional benefits associated with the athletic programs' postseason success.

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

Enrollment: "The Path Forward" – Dr. Judson Edwards

Dr. Judson Edwards provided an overview of the University's current enrollment environment and the challenges affecting recruitment, retention, and graduation. Dr. Edwards noted that competition among institutions has intensified, particularly among universities within the region, with institutions utilizing increased scholarships, tuition discounts, and other financial incentives to attract students.

Dr. Edwards emphasized that the University should broaden its focus beyond increasing enrollment to increasing the number of students who successfully graduate. It was noted that the current student experience is fragmented, with responsibility for recruitment, developmental coursework, retention, and graduation distributed across multiple areas of the University. Dr. Edwards identified a need for clearer institutional ownership and coordination of retention efforts.

Several factors affecting enrollment were discussed, including:

- Declining numbers of traditional college-age students and high school graduates in the University's primary recruiting areas;
- Increased competition among Alabama institutions and other regional universities;
- Greater price sensitivity among prospective students, particularly given the significant percentage of university students receiving Pell Grants;
- Increased availability of low-cost or tuition-free community college options;
- Changing perceptions regarding the value of a traditional college degree and increased interest in entering the workforce or pursuing skilled trades; and
- Uncertainty affecting international student enrollment and the international student pipeline.

Dr. Edwards stated that many of these external factors are outside the University's control, but the University can control how it responds to changing market conditions. The presentation emphasized that previous enrollment strategies alone are unlikely to address the current environment and that the University must develop a more comprehensive approach to recruitment, retention, and student completion.

Recruitment and Enrollment Strategies

Dr. Edwards discussed the need for a stronger and more sustained recruitment strategy, characterized as a "better ground game." Rather than relying primarily on traditional recruitment visits, the University should establish deeper relationships with schools, counselors, teachers, students, families, and communities.

Specific strategies discussed included:

- Establishing earlier relationships with prospective students and introducing the University's academic programs to students at younger ages;
- Developing academic clubs, camps, challenges, and other programs that expose students to University programs and faculty before they reach college age;
- Providing prospective students with more meaningful campus experiences tailored to their academic interests;
- Strengthening relationships with high schools and their counselors, teachers, and administrators;
- Expanding the University's presence in local communities and demonstrating the expertise and resources available through the University; and
- Increasing engagement of faculty in recruitment and outreach activities.

Dr. Edwards cited Auburn University's early engagement with students interested in engineering as an example of establishing relationships with prospective students well before the traditional college-recruitment stage.

The importance of the campus visit experience was also emphasized. Dr. Edwards stated that prospective students should receive a distinctive and welcoming experience when visiting campus and that academic programs should provide opportunities for students to interact with faculty and experience the University.

Retention and Student Success

Dr. Edwards stressed that the University cannot recruit its way out of a retention problem and that increasing graduation numbers should be a central institutional objective.

A need for a more coordinated and proactive retention system was identified. Dr. Edwards noted that the University currently lacks a sufficiently sophisticated system for identifying students who are experiencing academic difficulty and intervening early.

Potential interventions discussed included:

- Early identification of students experiencing academic difficulties;
- Academic alerts and intervention triggers;
- Tutoring and other academic support;
- Mandatory study halls or structured academic support where appropriate;
- Greater coordination among academic deans, faculty, advisors, and student-support units; and
- Establishment of a comprehensive system that follows students from enrollment through graduation.

Dr. Edwards also discussed the transition from faculty advising to professional advising. Funding available through the **CHEER Act** was identified as an important resource that could support the implementation of professional advising and allow faculty to devote more time to teaching, mentoring, recruitment, community engagement, and other activities that strengthen the student experience.

Faculty and Community Engagement

Dr. Edwards emphasized the quality and expertise of the University's faculty and the opportunity to utilize that expertise more effectively in recruitment and community engagement.

Faculty could become more actively involved with prospective students through school visits, academic programs, student challenges, and other outreach activities. Dr. Edwards also discussed positioning the University as a resource for surrounding communities by providing expertise in areas such as economic development, healthcare, business, and other disciplines.

Such engagement was described as both a community-service opportunity and a means of strengthening the University's visibility and recruitment pipeline.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Dr. Edwards provided an overview of the competitive scholarship environment and the need to evaluate the University's scholarship strategy. He indicated that the University should analyze whether its current scholarship structure is sufficiently clear, competitive, and effective in converting scholarship offers into enrolled students. Potential approaches discussed included:

- Simplifying merit scholarship structures;
- Considering income-based scholarship strategies;
- Evaluating scholarships targeted toward students from lower-income families with strong academic qualifications;
- Developing incentives for Troy graduates who continue into graduate programs;

- Evaluating the effectiveness of scholarships based on offers, acceptances, and actual enrollment; and
- Exploring additional ways to use scholarship resources strategically to maximize enrollment and student success.

Dr. Edwards also proposed providing University alumni chapters with scholarship resources that could be used to recruit and support students within their local communities. The concept would provide alumni with a more active role in recruitment and strengthen connections among alumni, prospective students, families, schools, and the University.

Alumni Recruitment Network

Dr. Edwards discussed the opportunity to more effectively utilize the University's alumni network in recruitment. It was noted that recruiters do not currently have sufficient information regarding alumni working in or connected to schools they visit.

A more coordinated alumni database and engagement strategy could allow recruiters to identify Troy graduates serving as superintendents, principals, counselors, teachers, business leaders, and other community contacts. Alumni could then assist recruiters in establishing relationships with prospective students and families.

Dr. Edwards characterized alumni engagement as an underutilized resource that could significantly expand the University's local recruitment efforts.

Strategic Direction

Dr. Edwards' presentation concluded with an emphasis on developing a comprehensive, institution-wide approach to enrollment and student success. He stated that there is no single strategy or "silver bullet" that will address the University's enrollment challenges.

The proposed approach centers on:

1. Building earlier and deeper relationships with prospective students;
2. Strengthening recruitment relationships with schools and communities;
3. Improving the prospective-student campus experience;
4. Establishing stronger systems for early academic intervention and retention;
5. Expanding professional advising;
6. More strategically utilizing scholarship resources;
7. Engaging faculty more extensively in recruitment and community outreach;
8. Leveraging the University's alumni network; and

9. Shifting the institutional focus from enrollment alone toward retention, completion, and increasing the number of graduates.

Dr. Edwards noted that while demographic, competitive, and economic conditions present significant challenges, the University has substantial strengths—including its financial position, brand, athletics, campus experience, faculty expertise, and available CHEER Act funding—that can be leveraged as part of the University's response.

Dr. Edwards emphasized the importance of increasing campus visitation by hosting concerts and expanding the number of camps held on campus. He highlighted the concept of "recruiting without recruiting" by creating opportunities to engage prospective students and their families with the university through campus events and activities. Discussion followed.

Senator Dial expressed concern regarding the University's enrollment decline and stated that the Board should acknowledge its role in contributing to the challenges. He cited reductions in scholarship funding, the closure of the Phenix City campus, and reductions in programs at the Montgomery and Dothan campuses as decisions that may have negatively affected recruitment and enrollment.

Senator Dial emphasized the importance of scholarships in students' college decisions and noted that the University budgeted approximately $10 million annually for scholarships but awarded only about $7 million, attributing the difference to scholarships that were offered but not accepted. He suggested that fully utilizing the scholarship allocation could potentially increase enrollment by approximately 1,500 students.

Referencing the University of Alabama at Birmingham's enrollment growth, Senator Dial noted that increased scholarship funding and the expansion of scholarship opportunities were identified as key factors in its success. He urged the Board to take responsibility for past decisions, reconsider its approach to scholarship funding, and recognize the relationship between institutional decisions and the University's enrollment challenges. He concluded by emphasizing the need to address these issues collectively rather than attributing recruitment and retention difficulties solely to external factors.

Following the discussion, the Chairman announced a ten-minute recess.

President Pro Tem Vance called the meeting to order following the ten-minute recess.

- **<u>Academic Affairs Committee Report</u>, Honorable Karen Carter**

Academic Report – Dr. Judson Edwards

Trustee Carter reported on the August meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee and thanked Trustees Latta, Nailen, and Crowell for their participation. The Committee discussed the CHEERS Act, student retention, House Bill 580, curriculum, academic program approval processes, post-tenure review, faculty dismissal procedures, and standardized testing requirements.

Regarding House Bill 580, Dr. Edwards reported that university representatives had participated in a meeting in Montgomery concerning implementation processes and timelines. He noted that the university was already in compliance with the legislation's representation requirements for the Faculty Senate. The Committee supported maintaining the existing Faculty Senate structure, which serves primarily in an advisory capacity.

General Studies Curriculum

Dr. Edwards reported that the Committee had discussed the university's General Studies curriculum and the process for approving academic programs. He noted that the university had previously begun reviewing General Studies but had paused that work following passage of the legislation.

The Committee discussed the possibility of providing additional structure to the General Studies curriculum while maintaining opportunities for student exploration. Dr. Edwards referenced practices at other institutions, including the use of common courses to establish a distinctive educational experience for all students.

The Committee also discussed incorporating areas such as civics, the U.S. Constitution, and an understanding of government into the General Studies curriculum. Dr. Edwards indicated that Academic Affairs would work with university administration and other stakeholders to develop recommendations for consideration by the Board.

The goal is to complete any proposed curricular changes in time for inclusion in the next academic catalog. Dr. Edwards stated that the Academic Affairs Committee would begin this work in the coming weeks.

Academic Program Approval Process

The process for approving new academic programs and reviewed practices at other universities, including the University of North Alabama was reviewed.

Dr. Edwards reported that the proposed process would provide for Board consideration of significant academic changes, including new majors, programs, concentrations, schools, and colleges.

Dr. Mary Ann Templeton presented a proposed timeline for academic program development and approval. The timeline takes into consideration the meeting schedule and deadlines of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, as well as the university's academic catalog cycle.

Under the proposed process, new programs and concentrations would be reviewed by Academic Affairs and subsequently brought before the full Board. The proposed timeline would allow approximately one month for Academic Affairs review and one month for Trustee review.

The proposed timeline would also provide additional time for Marketing and Admissions to prepare for the implementation and recruitment associated with new academic programs.

No action was required at this meeting. University administration will continue developing the proposed process and timeline for consideration at a future Board meeting.

Post-Tenure Review and Dismissal

Dr. Edwards reported on the requirements of House Bill 580 concerning post-tenure review and faculty dismissal procedures.

The university currently has an established post-tenure review policy under which faculty members, both tenured and non-tenured, are evaluated annually. The existing process provides for action when performance concerns are identified, including an improvement process or dismissal, as appropriate.

House Bill 580 requires at least one mandatory post-tenure review during the fifth year. Dr. Edwards reported that the university intends to modify its existing policy to incorporate the required fifth-year review while maintaining its existing annual evaluation process.

The revised policy will be brought before the Board for consideration at a future meeting. Trustee Carter noted that the remaining provisions of House Bill 580 applicable to the university are not due until 2027.

ACT and Standardized Test Score Requirements

Dr. Edwards reported on the university's standardized testing requirements and their relationship to student recruitment, scholarships, and retention.

The university suspended its standardized test score requirement in 2020. Following discussion with Academic Affairs, Dr. Edwards presented data regarding incoming freshman cohorts at the Troy campus to illustrate the relationship among academic preparation, standardized test scores, scholarship awards, developmental coursework, and student retention.

For the three-year period reviewed, the average freshman retention rate was approximately 70%. Approximately $22.9 million in scholarships was awarded to the incoming freshman cohorts during the period, including approximately $3.3 million awarded to students who did not continue beyond their first year.

Among students who returned, the average high school GPA was 3.6, the average ACT score was 22.5, and the average SAT score was 1,086. The average scholarship award for these students was approximately $6,724, and approximately 54% completed some form of developmental coursework.

Among students who did not return, the average high school GPA was 3.2, the average ACT score was 19.6, and the average scholarship award was approximately $2,638. Nearly 77% of these students completed at least one developmental course.

Dr. Edwards also presented retention data based on GPA and submission of standardized test scores. Among students with a 3.0 high school GPA who submitted an ACT or SAT score, the reported

retention rate was 80%, compared with 60% among students with a 3.0 GPA who did not submit a standardized test score.

Dr. Edwards stated that the university would continue evaluating its standardized testing and scholarship policies to better align scholarship investments with student recruitment and retention objectives.

Dr. Edwards stated that standardized test scores could provide an additional measure of academic preparation and allow the university to identify students who may need additional academic support prior to enrollment. He also noted the importance of maintaining appropriate academic preparation levels within classes to support student success.

Dr. Edwards recommended reinstating the standardized test score submission requirement. He requested a letter of recommendation and support from the Academic Affairs Committee regarding the reinstatement of the requirement.

There was discussion regarding the potential enrollment implications of reinstating the requirement. It was noted that requiring submission of a test score could reduce the number of students recruited and enrolled. Dr. Edwards indicated that the initial proposal would be to require students to submit a standardized test score without establishing a minimum score requirement, with the possibility of evaluating additional requirements after the university has collected and reviewed the resulting data.

The relationship between standardized test scores, retention, student support, and scholarship allocation were discussed. Dr. Edwards emphasized that additional academic information could assist the university in identifying students who may require support and in making more informed enrollment and scholarship decisions.

Scholarship Allocation

In response to questions regarding scholarship decisions, Dr. Blake Bedsole explained that merit scholarships are currently formula-based. Merit awards are determined according to established GPA and ACT criteria, with an ACT score required for merit scholarship eligibility.

Mrs. Alicia Bookout added that Foundation scholarships are administered through a centralized application process. Applications are distributed to the appropriate review committees, which evaluate applicants according to the established criteria for each scholarship.

Dr. Edwards discussed the potential for greater flexibility in scholarship allocation, particularly in situations involving students with strong academic potential who may have financial need. The Committee noted that additional flexibility could allow the university to more effectively leverage scholarship resources in support of enrollment and student success.

Student Retention Data

Additional retention data were presented for the university's overall student population, including online students. The reported first-year retention rate for the combined population was approximately 65%.

Reduced-Hour and Three-Year Degree Programs

Dr. Edwards reported on the university's submission of a reduced-hour degree program designed to provide an accelerated pathway to degree completion. The proposed program is intended to serve as an initial test case for the implementation of reduced-hour degree programs at the university.

The proposed accounting pathway has received support from the State Board of Accountancy and the Alabama Association of CPAs. The program would provide an accelerated pathway through undergraduate and graduate accounting coursework, with the goal of allowing students to complete the necessary academic requirements for the CPA profession through a more streamlined program structure.

Dr. Edwards noted that similar reduced-hour degree pathways may have potential applications in other high-demand fields, including nursing and teacher education.

Dr. Mary Anne Templeton reported that the Alabama Commission on Higher Education was continuing to establish requirements and procedures for reduced-hour degree programs. The university anticipated that the proposed program could be considered by the Commission as early as December, although the timeline remained subject to the Commission's requirements and review process. The program would also require review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Dr. Edwards stated that the university should evaluate opportunities to expand reduced-hour degree pathways as the concept develops and consider how such programs could support enrollment, student access, and institutional revenue.

Pathways for Community College Graduates

Dr. Edwards discussed opportunities to develop additional degree pathways for students who have completed associate degrees at community colleges. Dr. Edwards noted that Associate of Applied Science degrees are among the most commonly awarded degrees at community colleges, but significant general education requirements at four-year institutions can limit the transferability of those degrees into traditional bachelor's degree programs.

The university is working with LBW Community College to explore an applied entrepreneurship degree pathway. The proposed pathway would allow students with an existing two-year degree to complete approximately 30 additional credit hours toward a bachelor's degree focused on entrepreneurship and business management.

The pathway could provide opportunities for graduates in technical fields, including welding, masonry, and automotive repair, to obtain a bachelor's degree and develop business-management skills. Dr. Edwards discussed the potential for an online delivery model and accelerated bachelor's degree

pathways. He emphasized the importance of identifying ways to serve the significant number of community college graduates in the region and developing programs that could expand the university's enrollment base while meeting workforce and student needs.

Academic Program Updates

Dr. Edwards reported on additional academic program developments.

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) in Marketing is being reintroduced as an on-campus major. He explained that the university's strategy is to restore individual business majors to the campus while maintaining a Business Administration degree with concentrations online.

The on-campus structure will provide opportunities for students to participate in internships and other experiences associated with a traditional residential program, while the online Business Administration program will provide a different degree pathway for online students.

The Committee was also informed of plans for a Master of Health Sciences program that would utilize existing courses and resources across the university's colleges.

Trustee Carter presented two items on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee.

First, the Committee presented a statement of support affirming the university's standardized test score requirement for undergraduate admission, as discussed during the Academic Affairs report. Trustee Crowell seconded to approve the statement of support. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The full statement appears below:

TROY UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
AFFIRMING THE STANDARDIZED TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION AND SUPPORTING THE DISCONTINUANCE OF ITS TEMPORARY WAIVER

The Troy University Board of Trustees affirms its support for the standardized test score requirement for undergraduate admission and for the administration’s decision to discontinue the temporary waiver of that requirement.

The Troy University Undergraduate Catalog requires first-time freshman applicants to submit proof of an acceptable test score from the ACT, SAT, or RSAT as a condition of admission. This requirement has remained continuously published in the Undergraduate Catalog and has not been amended, suspended, or rescinded by action of the Board of Trustees.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, widespread cancellations and limited availability of national test administrations prevented many prospective students from obtaining and submitting official test scores. In response to those circumstances, the University administration temporarily waived enforcement of the test score requirement. This temporary accommodation did not alter or remove the admission standard contained in the Undergraduate Catalog.

The circumstances that necessitated the temporary waiver no longer exist, and standardized testing is again readily available to prospective students. Accordingly, the administration has determined that the temporary waiver should be discontinued and enforcement of the existing requirement resumed.

The Board recognizes the value of standardized test scores in supporting informed admission decisions, course placement, academic advising, scholarship awarding, and efforts to promote student success.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees affirms that the standardized test score requirement set forth in the Undergraduate Catalog remains an admission standard of Troy University and expresses its support for the administration's discontinuance of the temporary waiver and resumption of enforcement of the requirement.

This Statement of Support establishes no new admission policy and amends no existing policy of the Board of Trustees. Rather, it reflects the Board's support for the administration in resuming enforcement of an existing University admission requirement.

Second, Trustee Carter presented a resolution ratifying the continuation of the Troy University Faculty Senate. She explained that the university's existing Faculty Senate guidelines satisfy the applicable requirements of House Bill 580 and that this portion of the legislation required action by October 1. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ward. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The full resolution is provided below:

Resolution No. 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TROY UNIVERSITY RATIFYING THE CONTINUATION OF THE TROY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-5A-21(b)(2) OF THE CODE OF ALABAMA 1975, AS ENACTED BY ACT 2026-432; MAKING FINDINGS OF COMPLIANCE; AND ADOPTING GOVERNING BOARD POLICY ON FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SIZE, AND REMOVAL

WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature enacted Act 2026-432 (House Bill 580), which added Article 2 to Chapter 5A of Title 16 of the Code of Alabama 1975, governing the establishment, membership, and duties of faculty senates at public four-year institutions of higher education, effective October 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Section 16-5A-21(b) of the Code of Alabama 1975, as enacted by Act 2026-432, provides that a faculty senate established at an institution before October 1, 2026, is abolished by operation of law unless the governing board (i) finds that the faculty senate meets the requirements of Article 2 and any policy adopted by the governing board pursuant to Article 2, and (ii) ratifies the faculty senate's continuation; and

WHEREAS, the Troy University Faculty Senate (the "Faculty Senate") is an existing faculty senate established prior to October 1, 2026, whose authority to exist is set forth in the Troy University Faculty Handbook; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate operates solely in an advisory capacity and has not been delegated, and does not exercise, final decision-making authority on any matter; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate constitution provides for adequate representation of the faculty across the colleges of Troy University; and

WHEREAS, Section 16-5A-22(a)(1) of the Code of Alabama 1975 mandates, without exception, that a governing board policy ensure adequate representation of each college and school of the institution, and the Board finds that the Faculty Senate constitution satisfies this requirement; and

WHEREAS, Sections 16-5A-22(a)(2), 16-5A-22(a)(3), and 16-5A-22(b) of the Code of Alabama 1975 establish default requirements concerning faculty senate leadership appointments, membership size and composition, and removal of faculty senate members, but expressly permit the governing board to provide alternative arrangements in each instance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds it appropriate to exercise its statutory authority to provide alternatives to the default provisions of Sections 16-5A-22(a)(2), 16-5A-22(a)(3), and 16-5A-22(b) by adopting the existing Faculty Senate constitution's provisions governing leadership, size, composition, and removal as the governing board's policy with respect to those matters; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that, as supplemented by the board policy adopted herein, the Faculty Senate meets the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 5A of Title 16 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as enacted by Act 2026-432, and that ratification of the Faculty Senate's continuation is therefore warranted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Troy University as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Troy University hereby finds that the Troy University Faculty Senate meets the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 5A of Title 16 of the Code of Alabama 1975, as enacted by Act 2026-432, in that: (i) the Faculty Senate constitution provides for adequate representation of each college and school of the institution; and (ii) the Faculty Senate is advisory only and has not been delegated final decision-making authority on any matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to the authority granted to the governing board under Sections 16-5A-22(a)(2), 16-5A-22(a)(3), and 16-5A-22(b) of the Code of Alabama 1975, the Board

hereby provides, as alternatives to the default provisions of those sections, that Faculty Senate leadership, membership size and composition, and member removal shall be governed by the Faculty Senate constitution, as it may be amended from time to time consistent with applicable law, provided that membership composition shall at all times ensure adequate representation of each college and school of Troy University; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate is not authorized to issue public statements on behalf of Troy University or otherwise represent official institutional positions, consistent with Section 16-5A-23(b) of the Code of Alabama 1975; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 16-5A-21(b)(2) of the Code of Alabama 1975, the Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the continuation of the Troy University Faculty Senate.

Trustee Carter concluded the Academic Affairs Committee report.

- **<u>Finance Committee</u>, Honorable Charles Nailen**

Financial Report – Dr. Jim Bookout

Trustee Nailen thanked the Board and offered personal reflections on his more than 22 years of service on the Board, as well as his prior service on the Troy University Foundation Board. He recognized the late Lamar Higgins and Roy Drinkard recalling their longstanding friendships, commitment to faith, and contributions to the University community. He also commended the remarks delivered in honor of Mr. Drinkard at his funeral service and expressed his deep appreciation for both individuals and the lasting impact they had on his life.

Trustee Nailen then transitioned to the Finance Committee report, noting that, consistent with his practice in previous years, he had met with Dr. Bookout and Tara Donaldson in preparation for the meeting.

Regarding reserves and policies, Chairman Nailen reported that Huron had been retained to assist with transition planning and to review University policies, including the reserves policy. Huron will also assist in developing a capital projects and infrastructure policy, as the University does not currently have such a policy.

The Committee reviewed facilities and capital projects. The Board was asked to consider approval of the proposed Advancement/Alumni Center project, which had previously received approval from the Advancement Committee. The cost of the project is expected to be mitigated substantially through proceeds from the sale of the Phenix City and Fort Walton Beach buildings.

Chairman Nailen further reported that the proposed chiropractic center in Dothan had been temporarily paused while Huron reviewed the project's projections and assumptions. A report was expected within two to three weeks.

Dr. Jim Bookout presented the Finance Committee report and reviewed current credit-hour production and related budget performance. He noted that credit hours are a significant source of university revenue and reported that current credit-hour production was approximately 311,302 compared with a budget of approximately 313,000. He stated that the university was performing well relative to budget and historical estimates, with approximately one month remaining in the fiscal year. He further noted that the University was approximately 682 credit hours below its budget for fiscal year 2027.

Dr. Bookout then reviewed a 15-year historical comparison of headcount, credit hours, enrollment location, and growth. In response to questions concerning scholarships and their relationship to enrollment, He explained that scholarship policies had been revised internally in 2018 and again in 2020, primarily to adjust scholarship categories and award amounts. He stated that scholarship expenditures had increased substantially in recent years, while enrollment had declined. Non-athletic scholarship expenditures increased from approximately $20.1 million in 2022 to approximately $29 million in the current year. He noted that the increase in scholarship expenditures had occurred during a period of declining enrollment.

President Pro Tem Vance asked for clarification regarding the assertion that the Board had voted to reduce scholarships and that the reduction was the primary cause of declining enrollment. Dr. Bookout stated that he did not recall the Board voting on scholarship reductions. He explained that the scholarship policy was revised internally in 2018 to categorize scholarships and establish amounts within those categories, with a further policy revision in 2020.

President Pro Tem Vance asked whether scholarship expenditures had increased in recent years. Dr. Bookout acknowledged that, historically, the University had budgeted more for scholarships than it awarded but noted that expenditures had increased in recent years. He reported that non-athletic scholarship expenses totaled $20.1 million in 2022 and approximately $29.1 million as of August 16 of the current year.

President Pro Tem Vance observed that non-athletic scholarship expenditures had increased by approximately $9 million over the four-year period while enrollment had declined each year. He noted that these figures were relevant to the ongoing discussion regarding enrollment and retention.

President Pro Tem Vance concluded by asking who was ultimately responsible for enrollment. Dr. Bookout identified Dr. Edwards as responsible for enrollment operations and confirmed the reporting structure through the Chancellor.

Dr. Bookout next reviewed current financial performance. He reported that net tuition revenue was approximately $99.179 million and remained below the prior year. He stated that the University had an operating deficit of approximately $2.696 million through June and projected an operating deficit of approximately $5 million for the current fiscal year, compared with approximately $3 million the prior year. He explained that the University had previously managed budget gaps through personnel management, including holding vacant positions and filling positions only when critical.

Operating Budget

Dr. Bookout reviewed the University's operating budget and reported that the budget increased by approximately $10.992 million. He explained that the additional revenue was generated primarily through tuition and fees, including changes to the tuition and fee structure and the addition of general and program fees. He noted that the University had reduced the tuition rate while increasing fees, resulting in an overall change in the combined tuition and fee structure. He stated that the University anticipated approximately $3 million in additional net tuition revenue.

Dr. Bookout reported that enrollment had declined by approximately five percent and acknowledged that several factors could have contributed to the decline. He stated that the revised tuition and fee structure had generated public discussion and emphasized that the University had reduced tuition while restructuring fees rather than simply adding fees to the previous tuition rate.

Dr. Bookout explained that the approximately $10.9 million increase in revenue was offset by a corresponding approximately $10.9 million increase in expenses, resulting in a balanced budget. Approximately $5.5 million of the expense increase was attributable to salaries and benefits, including annual salary increases and the anticipated filling of positions that had remained vacant during the prior year. Additional expenditures included operational costs and approximately $1.8 million in additional advertising and marketing expenditures.

Facilities Update

Dr. Bookout reviewed several major capital projects and noted that Wallace Hall represented an approximately $3 million project. He stated that the University was evaluating capital additions and developing policies and recommendations for prioritizing future projects. Other projects discussed included the Wright Hall gymnasium, engineering laboratories, and the Alumni Affairs Center, with the latter estimated at approximately $9.7 million.

He also discussed the University's sorority housing facilities, noting that many of the existing houses were approximately 50 years old and would require extensive renovation. The University is evaluating whether renovation of the existing facilities is economically feasible or whether alternative arrangements should be considered. Public-private partnership opportunities were discussed as a potential means of developing a new facility without issuing University debt, with the University potentially operating the facility and sharing revenue with a private partner.

Dr. Bookout further reviewed longer-term capital and maintenance projects. He noted that many of these projects would require significant expenditures without generating new revenue, although some could reduce operating costs or address deferred maintenance. He emphasized that such projects would need to be evaluated strategically and prioritized carefully.

Budget Resolution and Dothan Campus Discussion

Chairman Nailen stated that the Finance Committee's recommendation to the Board was approval of the proposed budget and noted that the corresponding resolution was included in the Board's agenda materials.

An amendment was proposed to authorize the expenditure of funds already appropriated for renovation of the Dothan Campus, contingent upon a favorable report from the University's consultant regarding the proposed chiropractic program. It was noted that the matter had been discussed at length by the Finance Committee and that the committee's consideration had resulted in a tie vote. The proposed amendment would allow the University to proceed with necessary improvements to the Dothan Campus in preparation for the potential launch of the chiropractic program.

During discussion, the Board reviewed the status of State appropriations for the project, including anticipated future appropriations. It was explained that the funds had been appropriated for the University and that failure to proceed within the applicable funding period could result in the funds reverting to the State. The Board discussed whether the appropriated funds would remain available if the University delayed action pending completion of the consultant's report.

The Board then discussed the scope and timing of the consultant's work. It was explained that the study was being conducted in two stages. The first stage would evaluate the overall feasibility of the proposed program, while the second stage would develop a pro forma examining the program's projected financial performance. The first stage was expected to be completed within approximately two to three weeks, with the subsequent pro forma requiring additional time.

Following discussion, the Board expressed support for waiting for the consultant's report before making a final decision while also recognizing the compressed timeline for utilizing the State funds and completing the necessary renovations. Discussion centered on the possibility of calling a special Board meeting promptly upon receipt of the report so that, if the report were favorable, the Board could make a timely decision and preserve the opportunity to complete the project within the required timeframe.

Board members also discussed the financial implications of the proposed chiropractic program, including the existing operating losses associated with the Dothan Campus and the significant initial investment that would be required. Members emphasized the importance of exercising appropriate stewardship of University resources while also considering the long-term viability and strategic importance of the Dothan Campus.

Development of the Chiropractic Program

Chancellor Hawkins reviewed the history of the University's efforts to strengthen and repurpose the Dothan Campus. It was explained that the University had determined that a health-care focus was important to maintaining a meaningful University presence in Dothan and had consequently expanded nursing programs at the campus. The proposed chiropractic program was subsequently subjected to due diligence and market analysis.

Dr. LaGary Carter provided additional background regarding development of the chiropractic program. He stated that Hanover Research had been commissioned to conduct a market analysis and that the findings were favorable. He reported that the chiropractic program was presented to the Board in February 2025 and that the Coleman Center was identified as necessary for implementation of the program. The University subsequently received ACHE approval in September 2025 and SACS approval in January 2026.

Dr. Carter further reported that the University hired a program director in February 2026 and a clinical coordinator and secretary in August 2026. The application portal was opened in August, and the University had received approximately ten applicants, with additional inquiries regarding the program.

Dr. Carter emphasized that the implementation timeline was already very compressed and stated that the University was preparing to solicit construction bids during the fall. He noted that architectural plans and designs had been developed and that the University was prepared to proceed should the Board ultimately authorize moving forward with the program.

Dr. Carter reported that the architects had completed plans and developed videos and renderings depicting the proposed improvements to the Dothan campus. He noted that the University was prepared to proceed; however, a delay of six to eight weeks could make it difficult to have the campus ready for students arriving on August 2027. He emphasized the importance of making a favorable first impression on students.

President Pro Tem stated that the University was appropriately conducting its due diligence before committing an estimated $10 million to $20 million to the chiropractic program. Trustee Nailen emphasized that his concerns were not intended to oppose the program and noted his strong support for the Dothan campus and his desire for the program to be successful. He expressed a preference for determining within the next several weeks that the program was not financially viable rather than discovering several years later that the University had committed substantial resources to an unsustainable operation.

Trustee Nailen further noted that pro forma financial statements had been requested by Trustee Latta and that it had taken approximately three months to receive them. After reviewing the financial information and identifying questions regarding the underlying assumptions, the University determined that an outside consultant should be engaged to evaluate both the viability of the program in Dothan and the reasonableness of the financial assumptions.

Trustee Nailen stated that the proposed approach was to receive the consultant’s report and, if favorable, proceed with the program, while discontinuing the effort if the report determined that the program was not viable.

Chancellor Hawkins emphasized that the Board had a responsibility to evaluate the proposal from all perspectives, including financial and governmental considerations.

The Board discussed the State support obtained for the program, including the reallocation of $475,000 associated with childcare and an additional $1 million per year for three years. The Board also discussed the potential consequences of discontinuing the program after these efforts had been made.

Dr. Carter discussed the development of the pro forma financial statements. The initial projections were reviewed and returned for additional consideration because certain assumptions appeared high. The University requested that the projections be developed using conservative assumptions. Various enrollment scenarios were subsequently considered.

Dr. Carter also reported that substantial stakeholder outreach had been conducted. Discussions had occurred with representatives of the Veterans Administration, including the individual responsible for chiropractic services throughout the VA, who expressed interest in the proposed clinic serving as a VA clinic. The University had also met with representatives of Fort Rucker, Wallace Community College, the Dothan soccer organization, and members of the broader community. Based upon this outreach, the University believed there was a sufficient potential customer and patient base to support the projections, although it was acknowledged that the program would require time to establish its clientele. Dr. Carter discussed the potential for grants and other external funding sources and acknowledged that projections for a new program necessarily involved some uncertainty.

Dr. Carter discussed potential political considerations associated with discontinuing the program. It was noted that the Phenix City campus had been closed with limited public response, but that the Dothan campus presented different circumstances. He noted that the Coleman Center had been associated with the chiropractic initiative, legislative changes had been made to accommodate the program, and national marketing efforts had been undertaken by the American Chiropractic Association.

Chancellor Hawkins stated that the Dothan campus presented greater promise than the Phenix City campus based upon the data reviewed and the potential associated with the healthcare focus. It was emphasized, however, that the ultimate decision regarding the program rested with the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Nailen reiterated that the University would be required to absorb operating losses during the initial years of the program in addition to the significant upfront investment in equipment, infrastructure, and renovations. He stated that he would prefer to determine within eight to ten weeks that the program was not financially sound rather than face the need to discontinue the program several years later after substantially greater resources had been committed.

The Board continued discussion regarding the proposed amendment to the budget related to the chiropractic program. It was clarified that two separate reports were under consideration: an initial two- to three-week report addressing whether the program was viable and whether the findings were favorable, followed by a more detailed proforma statement.

It was proposed that, upon receipt of a favorable initial report, the Finance Committee would reconvene to consider and vote on whether to proceed with the Huron proforma. The proposed amendment was further clarified as necessary because the associated funds were not currently included in the budget.

Trustee Dial restated the amended motion, "based upon a favorable report, the Finance Committee would again convene and vote on the issue." The amended motion was simultaneously seconded by and Trustee Trustee Crowell and Trustee Johnson. Following discussion, the amended motion was approved by the Board.

President Pro Tem Vance reiterated support for the chiropractic program and expressed hope that the program would be highly successful.

Following clarification that the previous motion did not approve the budget, Trustee Nailen introduced the resolution for the 2026-2027 operating budget in the form of a recommendation from the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. The budget was approved by the Board. The full resolution is provided below:

Resolution No. 2

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TROY UNIVERSITY APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, the administration of Troy University has developed and recommended the annual Troy University Operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, as the Chancellor and the Finance Committee have reviewed the revenues and expenditures within the proposed budget and have determined the proposed budget is fiscally sound; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has received a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budget and has been briefed on sources of revenue and categories of expenditures during the Board of Trustees meeting: and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees on the 12th day of September 2026, the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 is approved with the understanding the Chancellor is authorized to make intentional changes that result in an increase to the expense total included therein that, in his judgement, may be necessary to fund unanticipated initiatives and/or strategic plan objectives. The Chair of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees will be notified when such intentional changes are made, and the Board of Trustees must approve such changes, in advance, if they exceed seven percent (7%) of the budgeted expense total.

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

Update from Committee Meeting – Alicia Bookout

The Board received the Advancement Committee report. Trustee Latta introduced Dr. Alicia Bookout and commended her work and professionalism, noting the significant progress she had made in a short period of time. Trustee Latta also introduced special guests Tom Coker and Britt Bonner, who were scheduled to participate in the discussion following the Advancement Committee report.

Trustee Latta directed the Board's attention to the Advancement dashboard and expressed appreciation to Dr. Jim Bookout and the staff involved in its development. He noted that the dashboard would provide the Board with a comprehensive, high-level view of significant University data and would serve as a useful management and governance tool.

The Board was provided an overview of fundraising activity. Total gifts received during the prior year were reported at approximately $12.9 million. It was also noted that the success of Troy Athletics, including the recent trip to Omaha, had generated increased philanthropic activity for Athletics, and that Advancement would continue efforts to strengthen fundraising for the academic side of the University.

A concern was raised regarding alumni participation in giving. Alumni participation was reported at approximately 1.63 percent, compared with an average of approximately 5 to 8 percent for comparable regional institutions. The Advancement team reported efforts to address matters identified in the BWF consultant's report. The Foundation and Alumni Board had revised their respective bylaws and are working to ensure greater consistency between the two organizations.

The Young Alumni Council was being reestablished and would assist with admissions and recruitment initiatives. The Alumni Board was also reviewing its membership financial model and considering whether a hybrid approach to dues and membership should be implemented.

New fundraising initiatives included identifying specific giving priorities for each academic college and developing materials highlighting those priorities. The University was also moving Giving Day to December 1, the national day of giving following Thanksgiving.

The Advancement Committee had established a strategic plan consisting of eight priority areas, including improving data integrity. The Committee also reviewed University building and naming policies and expected to bring proposed changes forward for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee was reviewing a draft memorandum of understanding between the University and the Foundation, with further consideration and a potential vote anticipated at the next committee meeting.

The Board was informed that the Foundation Board had approved the Institutional Advancement Committee Chair and the Alumni Board President to serve as ex officio members of the Foundation Board. The Foundation Board was also expected to consider adding the Board of Trustees Finance Committee Chair as an ex officio member.

The Board was informed that Alabama Code §16-56-6 concerning the Chancellor's residency requirement was expected to be amended.

The Advancement dashboard was also reviewed, and additional benchmarking metrics were recommended for inclusion.

Proposed Alumni Hall

The Board received a presentation regarding the proposed development of Alumni Hall. Appreciation was expressed to Mr. Thomas for his leadership and efforts in advancing the project.

The Board reviewed architectural renderings depicting the proposed building from several perspectives, including views from George Wallace Drive, the side and rear of the building, and an aerial view. It was noted that an existing tree that had been a subject of discussion would remain as part of the landscaping plan. The renderings also depicted the proposed parking area and the relationship of the building to the adjacent apartment complex. Two existing houses in the vicinity were expected to be removed as part of the development.

Government Relations – Federal Update

The Board received an update on federal government relations and pending federal appropriations.

Federal priorities for the upcoming session included healthcare-related initiatives, student and campus safety, and continued funding for materials and manufacturing sciences.

Two University projects remained on the Senate appropriations list. A $2.5 million request associated with the Center for Materials and Manufacturing Sciences and a $1 million request associated with campus safety remained pending, subject to final Congressional action and the appropriations process.

Looking ahead, it was noted that the next federal legislative cycle would involve a new Congress and changes in Alabama's Senate delegation. Appreciation was expressed for the support received from Senator Britt, Congressman Moore, Senator Moore, and Congressman Shomari Figures. The University planned to continue working with members of the Alabama congressional delegation on federal funding opportunities.

Government Relations – State Legislative Update

The Board received an update regarding the upcoming Alabama legislative session. It was reported that the Education Trust Fund would likely be more limited and that supplemental funding could also be reduced. The University expected to seek available funding through the CHOOSE Act, including approximately $3 million, as well as the Technology Fund.

Discussion followed regarding the amount of funding currently held in savings and the need to balance appropriate reserves with the use of available funds for University needs.

The Board was reminded that the University had received approximately $18 million in one-time supplemental funding during the current year, which could be used for various purposes. It was acknowledged that such supplemental funding was nonrecurring.

Chancellor Hawkins expressed appreciation to Mr. Coker for his longstanding service and advocacy on behalf of the University. It was noted that he has represented the University for many years and has agreed to continue assisting with government relations efforts going forward.

Resolution Authorizing Development and Alumni Center

Trustee Latta introduced Resolution No. 3, authorizing the Development and Alumni Center. The resolution came forward with a unanimous recommendation from the Institutional Advancement committee. Trustee Thomas expressed appreciation for the Board's support of the project, noting that the Alumni Center was long overdue and would be a significant addition for alumni. There being no further discussion, the motion carried with no opposition. The full resolution appears below:

Resolution No. 3

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TROY UNIVERSITY
Authorizing Construction of a
Development and Alumni Center
(Capital Project Resolution)

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Troy University (the "University") recognizes the vital role of the University's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs in advancing the University's mission, enhancing its reputation, supporting student success and fostering lifelong engagement with the University; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a dedicated Development and Alumni Center (the "Project") will serve as a welcoming gateway for alumni, donors, prospective students, community partners and will provide facilities for alumni engagement, donor cultivation, meetings, special events, university functions, and other activities that support the strategic goals of the University; and

WHEREAS the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the University to proceed with the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Project; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Project shall be from private gifts, foundation support, alumni contributions, and approved capital funds and other sources as authorized by the University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the University to proceed with the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Development and Alumni Center.
2. The Chancellor is authorized, on behalf of the University, to negotiate, execute, and deliver any and all contracts, agreements, and other instruments necessary or appropriate to complete the Project, and to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.
3. The officers of the University shall report to the Board, at each Board of Trustees meeting, on the status of the Project budget, construction progress, and expenditure of Project funds.
4. The officers of the University are authorized and directed to take any and all further actions, and to execute and deliver any and all further documents, as may be necessary or advisable to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Discussion Regarding the Coach Blakeney Statue

The Board then discussed the previously approved statue honoring Coach Blakeney and the proposed location of the statue on campus. It was noted that the Board had previously approved the statue and that the remaining issue concerned its placement, with the south end zone of the football stadium identified as a proposed location.

Questions were raised regarding whether the matter had previously been considered by the appropriate committee. It was noted that the Advancement committee had discussed the matter and had voted against the proposed placement. Other members expressed concern that the committee's action should not supersede an action previously taken by the full Board.

Additional discussion focused on Board procedures and the requirement that matters be included on the agenda sufficiently in advance of a meeting. It was noted that the statue placement had not been included on the agenda and had been provided to Trustees upon arrival at the meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining an alternative proposal regarding the statue's placement and continuing discussions with the Chancellor before bringing the matter back for consideration.

Trustee Dial expressed concern about delaying the placement of the statue, noting Coach Blakely's health and the desire to have the statue installed while he could attend a football game and participate in the recognition. Trustee Dial requested a record vote and moved to suspend the rules and immediately consider placement of the statue in the south end zone.

Further discussion ensued regarding the Board's rules and procedures for adding an item to the agenda. It was ultimately clarified that a motion could be made to add the statue placement to the agenda for consideration by the full Board.

Trustee Dial made a made motion to add the Coach Blakeney statue placement to the agenda for consideration at the current meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion.

Trustee Latta emphasized the importance of following the Board's established processes and expressed a preference for allowing the appropriate committee and administration to complete their review. Trustee Johnson discussed the importance of addressing the matter while also respecting established Board procedures. Discussion surrounding the placement of statues followed.

A roll-call vote was conducted on the motion to add the matter to the agenda. The votes recorded were as follows:

- General Crowell — Aye
- Karen Carter — Aye
- Senator Dial — Aye
- Trustee Latta — Nay
- Mayor Johnson — Aye
- Freddie Thomas — Aye
- Trustee Nailen — Nay
- Senator Ward — Nay
- President Pro Tem Vance — Nay

The motion to add the matter to the agenda carried by a vote of 5-4.

A subsequent motion was then made to proceed with placing the statue of Coach Blakeney in the south end zone. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Discussion followed regarding whether the University's Athletic Director should be consulted regarding the specific placement of the statue.

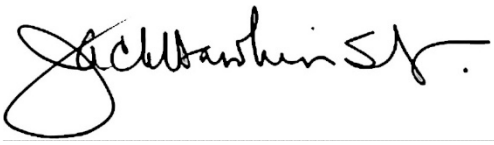
President Pro Tem Vance called for a vote on the motion by a show of hands. The motion failed by a vote of 4 to 5.

V. New Business

None

VI. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, President Pro Tem Gibson called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:19.



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



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