MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2011 MEETING
OF THE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

The Athletics Committee of The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama met in the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa on Friday, September 16, 2011. Trustee John McMahon chaired the meeting. Michael A. Bownes served as Secretary.

On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

The Honorable Karen P. Brooks
The Honorable Paul W. Bryant Jr.
The Honorable Angus R. Cooper II
The Honorable Joseph C. Espy III
The Honorable John J. McMahon Jr.
The Honorable William Britt Sexton
The Honorable James Wilson III

Other Trustees in attendance:

The Honorable Ronald W. Gray
The Honorable Andria Scott Hurst
The Honorable Vanessa Leonard
The Honorable W. Davis Malone
The Honorable Finis E. St. John IV, President pro tempore
The Honorable Marietta M. Urquhart
The meeting was also attended by Chancellor and Interim UAHuntsville President Malcolm Portera, UA President Robert Witt, and UAB President Carol Garrison, as well as support staff from the UA System Office, UA, UAB, and UAHuntsville.

Kellee Reinhart introduced the press: Hannah Wolfson, Steve Irvine, and Don Kausler, Jr., from *The Birmingham News*; Wayne Grayson from *The Tuscaloosa News*; and Paul Gattis from *The Huntsville Times*.

Chairman McMahon called on Athletic Director Mal Moore to present an update on the UA athletic program.

Coach Moore thanked the Chancellor, President Witt, and the Board for their support of the UA athletic program and all they do for the University.

**Academics.** UA Fall sports are underway with women’s volleyball, women’s soccer and the football program. Coach Moore said he is extremely proud of the student-athletes’ academic success. APR score for all athletic teams will be above the NCAA score of 925. Since 2000, Alabama leads the SEC with 61 academic All-American honorees, ranking fifth nationally. Eight student-athletes earned academic All-American honors, the most of any SEC school. Two student-athletes, Greg McElroy (football) and Kayla Hoffman (gymnastics), were named academic All-Americans of the Year for their respective sports. Three student-athletes, Greg McElroy, Kayla Hoffman, and Adam Bure (swimming), earned NCAA post-graduate scholarships. Greg McElroy was also an NCAA top eight honoree for his academic achievements. Two student-athletes earned NCAA Elite 88 academic awards: Rachel Terry (gymnastics) and Nathan Corder (cross country). The University placed 176 student-athletes on the SEC academic honor roll and 74 freshmen on the SEC’s first-year honor roll.

**Funds and Facilities.** The Athletics Department donated $1 million to UA’s Acts of Kindness fund to assist faculty, staff, and students with needs during the aftermath of the April tornado. The Collegiate Licensing Corporation projects that UA will finish the year with $7 million in royalty income, to rank second nationally among 150 schools; $3.5 million will be used for National Merit Scholarships. The demand for and the value of UA’s trademark are largely created through the national exposure generated by the success of the athletic program. The Foster Auditorium renovation was completed in January 2011 and provides an excellent venue and home for women’s basketball and volleyball programs. The Coleman Coliseum Men’s Basketball Facility was renovated and will support Coach Grant’s recruiting efforts in building the basketball program. Expansion of the clubhouse at the women’s softball complex was completed in January 2011. The John and Ann Rhodes Stadium is considered one of the
nation’s finest women’s softball complexes. Construction is underway for an indoor complex for the tennis teams and should be completed in January 2012.

**Sports.** Coach Moore said the campus is in an era of growth and competitive improvement, evident most recently as UA won regular season titles in softball and gymnastics and the national championship in gymnastics. There are outstanding coaches across the board who work and compete in facilities that are among the nation’s very best. Fan support remains amazing with sellout home crowds for football and women’s softball games. Gymnastics continues to have large crowds, and baseball and basketball programs have increased attendance.

Chairman McMahon congratulated Coach Moore on the UA’s athletic program’s accomplishments under his leadership. There were no questions for Coach Moore.

Chairman McMahon called on Athletic Director Brian Mackin for an update on UAB’s athletic program.

Mr. Mackin thanked the Chancellor, President Garrison, and the Board for their support of UAB athletics. Mr. Mackin said they had a great year, both academically and on and off the courts.

**Academics.** The investments in facilities and people paid dividends in awards and in both GPA and APR numbers. After the 2010-11 year, the preliminary APR numbers will have every team over 925 cut rate for the first time. Men’s basketball and six teams had a perfect score of 1000; football had 950. Overall GPAs included 2.97 for the entire program and 3.0 during spring 2011. Men’s basketball had the second highest GPA in Conference USA and the women’s tennis and soccer programs led Conference USA in their GPAs. Thirty-five student-athletes earned the Conference USA Commissioner’s Academic Award (3.75 GPA or above); 150 student-athletes had a 3.0 GPA, earning them placement on the Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll. Natalie Mitchell (softball) earned Conference USA and NCAA Post Graduate Scholarships. Amanda Peterson (women’s basketball) and Carolyn Cochran (women’s golf) were selected for the Conference USA Scholar-Athletes of the Year Award. Danielle Blair, former women’s soccer player, is a finalist for NCAA Woman Student-Athlete of the Year. Mr. Mackin said UAB’s teams were competitive, had a good year, achieved goals, and represented UAB well. Women’s softball earned their second bid to the NCAA tournament; women’s basketball was selected to play the Women’s Basketball Invitational (WBI) and won the tournament. Men’s basketball had a good year and was selected by NCAA to play, with Aaron Johnson being selected as the Conference USA Player of the Year. Mr. Mackin said he is pleased with the direction the athletic program is taking.
Mr. Mackin called on President Garrison for remarks. Dr. Garrison said that she, too, is proud of the accomplishments of their athletic program. She said the UAB Campus Master Plan reflects how their strategic priorities are going to play out in the growth of the physical campus. After some thought, it was felt that that an on-campus football stadium should to be considered. At the February 2011 meeting, she reported that she had asked Richard Margison and Brian Mackin to look into the possibility of an on-campus stadium. Dr. Garrison said they are far enough along with that work and want to update the Board. An on-campus stadium is the right thing to do for their athletic programs, i.e., competitiveness in recruiting, attracting a larger fan base, attractiveness to conferences, and easier access to this type of venue for students, faculty and staff. While considering the football stadium, the city became interested in locating a baseball stadium nearby. There is a lot of interest in Birmingham about the possibility of these two projects and the synergies that could occur between them. Mr. Margison will give some specifics on a proposal for the football stadium. This is just a briefing; any proposal for such a stadium would go through the normal processes for approval.

Mr. Margison gave some reasons for why moving forward with an on-campus stadium is important.

1. UAB has had a close relationship with the city and the city has supported their athletic programs. Trying to build support for their football program at Legion Field is not working. Seating at over 60,000 is too large for UAB’s needs and UAB cannot create the ticket demand for the premium seating that normally drives revenue for a football program. It is difficult to ensure a user-friendly environment when they have very little control over the services that are provided at the facility on their behalf. There are always scheduling challenges when there are many users in a shared facility.

2. Those within UAB’s conference are making facility investments in their football programs: SMU, the University of Central Florida, and Florida Atlantic University are moving into new stadiums; the University of North Texas is opening a new stadium; the University of Houston and Alabama State University are building new stadiums. This puts UAB’s coaches at a competitive disadvantage when they are talking to potential recruits about coming to UAB and the commitment UAB has to making them the best student-athletes they can be.

3. The cost of athletic programs continues to rise, attributable to obligations to Title IX. Travel and tuition increases drive up the
grant need budgets and put more pressure on the institutional budget to support the program. UAB’s athletic budget is one of the lower ones in their conference, but they believe the football program has the opportunity to generate revenue to support the program and over time mitigate the growth of institutional support.

Mr. Margison said a team of representatives from the Athletic Department and his office conducted a study to:

1) Determine a possible campus site for an on-campus stadium.
2) Prepare a program statement to articulate the size, features, and functions of the facility, looking at a capacity of 27,500 permanent seats with a full capacity of up to 30,000.
3) Prepare a preliminary design and from that be able to prepare some preliminary cost estimates; this is potentially about a $75 million investment.
4) Prepare a business plan for the facility.

As part of their due diligence, the representatives visited other universities that had recently built stadiums and engaged professional firms to assist them with design options and cost estimates. Mr. Margison distributed a handout to provide a sense of the size and scope of the project, as well as a preliminary rendering of the facility they envision. Their objective is to provide an update because the support of the Board is essential to the success of the project. They will complete their studies and hope to return through the normal processes of the Physical Properties Committee at a future meeting, hopefully as soon as November.

Chairman McMahon asked if there were any questions or comments. Trustee St. John recalled that the last time this project was mentioned was at the Birmingham Board meeting last winter with the conclusion that Mr. Margison would conduct a financial feasibility study. Trustee St. John asked about the status of the study. Mr. Margison said they have developed a preliminary business plan and learned a lot from the site visits in terms of operating costs, features, and potential revenues. They are almost finished with the report and are pleased with the business plan that can support this facility and generate revenues for the program. (The business plan and the feasibility study are the same report.)

Chairman McMahon said UAB is a young institution, but built into its DNA has been a striving for excellence. This excellence is seen throughout the University, whether it is the colleges, the School of Medicine or the hospital. The hospital was recently ranked number one for patient satisfaction among all academic medical centers in the country. This striving for excellence has always
had strong support from the Chancellor’s Office and the Board of Trustees and they continue to support all aspects of UAB

Trustee Hurst said she cheers for the progress the athletes are making and believes the Board should give them a round of applause for their academic progress.

Trustee Espy said, as we go forward with this project, he wants to look at the amount of student involvement, where the community leaders are, and whether the community will support the stadium financially. He asked the Board to keep these items in mind because they will factor into his ultimate decision.

Trustee Hurst said, by way of putting herself in the student’s place, if a football game is occurring on her campus, and she only has to walk from her dorm to the game, she will attend. However, if she does not have transportation to a venue across town her heart will not be in it, and she will not attend. If it is the heart of the campus, it will have the heart of the student body and generate their excitement.

Trustee Wilson said that if both facilities (football and baseball) go forward, it is important that UAB makes sure both facilities work together to make something great on that side of campus. He knows that it will be done in a nice master plan that is good for the city and campus.

Trustee England said he has attended UAB football games and has no doubt that the students will be supportive because he sees that support in all the areas that you can envision for a football team. The key point is one that that Trustee Espy made, which was in getting support from community leaders in Birmingham. Trustee England commented that Trustee McMahon is one of those leaders who will support the football stadium.

Chairman McMahon called on Athletic Director E. J. Brophy to give an update of the UAHuntsville athletic program.

Dr. Brophy thanked the Chancellor and the Board for their leadership and support. He said their fall sports are underway: soccer, cross country, and volleyball. They recruit great people who are great students and great athletes. Ten of their 16 sports had a 3.0 GPA or higher; no sport was below a 2.78 GPA. Their overall average as a department was 3.04. In the fall of 2010, 36 student-athletes made the All Gulf Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll with a 3.6 GPA or higher. With a 3.2 GPA, seven students made the All Gulf Southern Conference Academic Team. In the spring, 30 students made the Gulf South Conference Academic Honor Roll with four on the academic team. One third of
their student-athletes won awards. Dr. Brophy said UAHuntsville All American basketball player Josh Majette was named to the Gulf South Conference Commissioner’s Top Ten which includes academics, athletic prowess, and community involvement.

Dr. Brophy said men’s basketball won the eastern division championship. They hosted the south region for NCAA Division Two and won that regional before a packed audience. They went on to the Final Eight in Springfield, Massachusetts. The two All Americans on the basketball team were Josh Majette and Zane Campbell; Coach of the Year was Lenny Acuff. The softball team, with a record of 48-6, made it to the national championships, won the east division championship of the Gulf South Conference, hosted the NCAA regionals and the NCAA super regionals, made it to the nationals and finished second in the country. Mary Kelly was an NCAA All American and Coach Les Stuedeman was the east division coach of the year and also named the Gulf South Conference Coach of the Decade. The coaching staff for softball was named Gulf South Conference Staff of the Year and the softball program was named Gulf South Conference Program of the Decade. Women’s cross country won the Gulf South Conference championship and David Cain was named the Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year. Other key elements: 27 all conference performers; five All Americans; three coach of the year winners; three conference players of the year; one coach of the decade; one coaching staff of the year; one program of the decade.

Dr. Brophy said that over 60 percent of their student-athletes are from Alabama and over 60 percent of their scholarship monies go to young people from Alabama. He appreciates the commitment the students make in the classroom, on the courts, and in the community.

Trustee England asked about hockey. Dr. Brophy said the hockey team, an independent in NCAA Division One, had a tough year and is in the process of rebuilding. Their first game is scheduled for October 1 with Lake Superior State.

Chairman McMahon noted that this was Dr. Brophy’s first meeting and he is doing a great job at UAHuntsville.

Trustee Bryant commented that all three athletic directors were products of The University of Alabama System.

Trustee Espy said that we all need to be proud of the academic progress of the athletic programs. Trustee Espy also said that UA is one of the few sustaining athletic programs in the country that take no state funds. He emphasized that the
UA program gave millions to National Merit Scholars, the library and to storm relief.

With no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

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C. Ray Hayes                                                   Michael Bownes
Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs                        Secretary of the Board of Trustees