MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2008 MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama met in Executive Classroom 280, Bevill Conference Center, on the campus of The University of Alabama in Huntsville April 11, 2008. Trustee Joseph C. Espy III chaired the meeting. Michael A. Bownes served as Secretary.

On roll call, the following Trustees were present:

Dr. Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education

The Honorable Angus R. Cooper II, Trustee from the First Congressional District

The Honorable Marietta M. Urquhart, Trustee from the First Congressional District

The Honorable Joseph C. Espy III, Trustee from the Second Congressional District

The Honorable James W. Wilson III, Trustee from the Second Congressional District

The Honorable Vanessa Leonard, Trustee from the Third Congressional District

The Honorable Sidney L. McDonald, Trustee from the Fourth Congressional District

The Honorable Finis E. St. John IV, Trustee from the Fourth Congressional District

The Honorable Peter L. Lowe, Trustee from the Fifth Congressional District

The Honorary Joe H. Ritch, Trustee from the Fifth Congressional District
The Honorable Paul W. Bryant, Jr., Trustee from the Sixth Congressional District

The Honorable John J. McMahon, Jr., Trustee from the Sixth Congressional District

The Honorable Karen P. Brooks, Trustee from the Seventh Congressional District

The Honorable John H. England, Jr., Trustee from the Seventh Congressional District

The Honorable Andria S. Hurst, Trustee from the Seventh Congressional District

The following Trustees were unable to attend:

The Honorable Bob Riley, Governor

The meeting also was attended by: Chancellor Malcolm Portera; UA President Robert E. Witt; UAB President Carol Z. Garrison; UAH President David B. Williams; staff members from the Office of the Chancellor, the three campuses, and the UAB Health System. Also in attendance were Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees Cason M. Kirby from UA, Brittany A. Williams from UAB, and Samuel N. Parks from UAH. Faculty Representatives to the Board in attendance were Dr. Patsy E. Greenup from UAB and Dr. Lynn Boyd from UAH.

Kellee Reinhart, Vice Chancellor for System Relations, introduced Ken Kesner from The Huntsville Times and Kent Faulk from The Birmingham News.

Chairman Espy recognized the President of the UAH Alumni Association, Emily Vandiver.
Chairman Espy called for approval of the minutes of the February 8, 2008, meeting, which were distributed to each member of the Board. On motion of Trustee McMahon, seconded by Trustee McDonald, the minutes were approved as reported.

Chairman Espy said a draft of the Executive Committee Report was distributed to all Trustees. On motion of Trustee England, seconded by Trustee Wilson, the Board ratified the actions of the Executive Committee.

(Insert Executive Committee Report)

Chairman Espy recognized Chancellor Portera for a report from The University of Alabama System.

I want to thank David and Margie for a wonderful evening. I had an opportunity to spend time with David’s colleagues from Lehigh University last night and it was very pleasant.

I also want to acknowledge David’s presentation of his bold ideas and plans for UAH during the Institutional Presentation. In conducting the Presidential search here at UAH, we talked at length about the kind of individual we were looking for to lead this institution. I believe Trustee Lowe and Trustee Ritch, as co-chairs of the Presidential Search Committee, exceeded all expectations with this appointment.

In a few moments, we will march over and install David as the fifth President of The University of Alabama in Huntsville. I am very excited about that. David, congratulations on a great presentation and a great institutional Board of Trustees meeting.

I also want to thank Trustee Espy and Trustee McMahon. As Trustee Espy mentioned a few minutes ago, they spent a good bit of time with us last weekend in the Alabama Legislature working on the budget. I think we made progress in getting some commitments to restore some funds for higher education. As I mentioned earlier today, the request for this System is close to $85 million. We are going to work hard to address that.
We are presently involved with the CFOs and CAOs in a comprehensive planning effort for next year, whereby we will generate a plan to deal with the budget shortfall as mandated by the Legislature. You will be hearing a great deal more from us about that. We met yesterday morning with all the chief academic officers and chief financial officers along with the System staff.

One of the greatest concerns that we all have, as Trustee Espy mentioned a few minutes ago, is about the risk of losing momentum in our System. I have asked the CFOs, the folks who care for fiscal resources, and the CAOs, the folks who use the fiscal resources to support the teaching, research and service missions of these three institutions, to bring together their best creative thinking in devising a plan that allows us to minimize the negative impact this budget cut will have on our faculty and staff.

In David’s presentation, he talked specifically about Goldwater Scholars and the statistics of pursuing work in mathematics and science. There were nine Goldwaters in the State of Alabama this year and I believe eight of them came from University of Alabama System institutions. That achievement gives you some sense of what is going on in this System.

Three weeks ago the pro tem and I were talking before the Alabama-Auburn Executive Committee meeting to address the budget shortfall and I reminded Trustee Espy that the President once said, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” He reminded me the President who said that got impeached!

We have a great challenge in front of us, there’s no question about that. But I believe we are up to it and we have a great partnership with the three Presidents and the leadership of these three institutions working together to address the challenges and to continue the momentum that these three institutions have. We are committed.

Chairman Espy thanked the Chancellor for his comments and recognized President Williams for any further comments and the introduction of his Faculty and Student Reps.

President Williams said he had no further comments and recognized their Faculty Rep, Dr. Lynn Boyd.
Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you from the faculty perspective at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. The main message that I would like to convey is that there is much excitement and anticipation among the faculty at UAH and that we are eager to engage in the new strategic plan that will be presented this afternoon by President Williams.

I will try to keep my comments brief but I’d like to begin by admitting that when I applied for a position here almost 11 years ago, I had little knowledge of what this institution was about. At that time, I was seeking a university where I could do my research and where I could be involved in the local, as well as the scientific, community. I was also seeking a place that had a genuine blend of teaching and scholarship. I have been very pleased to find that this truly exists here.

My prior graduate school and post-doctoral experiences were in departments with intensive research activities. However, there was little interaction between the faculty and the student population. I cannot remember ever seeing my graduate or post-doctoral mentors interact with undergraduate students. In contrast, if you visit the offices in Biological Science at UAH, my home department, you will need to weave your way through the students in and around our offices. We definitely interact with students.

The faculty here have been an inspiring example. The scholar-educator is alive and well at UAH. I have encountered a philosophy here that scholarship and intellectual activity should be shared with students and with the local community. After all, students are the future of our culture. They are the vehicle by which we convey our ideas/our discipline forward into the future. Without this vehicle, our ideas are in danger of languishing as esoteric notions, unnoticed and forgotten to most of the world.

This philosophy of inclusion is all around our campus. Faculty include students in their research, in their scholarly conferences, and meetings. Also, we are reaching out to the community. Just as a single example, faculty in my discipline at UAH have joined with the local biotech industry to create a non-profit organization. The mission of this organization is to promote education and networking for biotech endeavors. A unique aspect of this group, compared to many other trade organizations, is the heavy involvement of students. As a consequence, this group has truly become a conduit to jobs for our students, both graduate and
undergraduate. This is just one example among many of how UAH is connecting to the community and to our students.

This is an exciting time at UAH. The leadership of former President Franz has left the University thriving and progressing. My own department has grown to over 400 undergraduate majors and that growth continues. I am pleased to say that the faculty and the administration work together in a functioning system of shared governance.

The current challenge as I see it is in spreading the word about UAH, about the virtues and opportunities that exist here. Unlike my scenario 11 years ago, young scientists who see ads for faculty openings should not draw a blank when they read UAHuntsville.

As a faculty representative, I want to make it clear that faculty are eager to participate in this process. We are eager to help with recruiting and development efforts. We are immensely interested in the advancement of UAH. I appeal to our new President and all members of the administration to utilize the talents of our faculty. To our new advancement officer, Jeff Sands, I ask you to get to know us and to involve us in your efforts. To our new Associate VP for Enrollment, Rich Barth, I ask you to please enlist the help of faculty in your recruiting efforts.

To President Williams, please let me say that I appreciate the opportunity to work with you this past year through the faculty senate. I feel that I may have acquired some indication of your leadership style. It is my impression that you expect much from your administrators and your faculty. And that, in turn, you are willing to work equally hard to ensure rewards and opportunities for them. I think you will find that among the faculty there is a lot of support for this approach and that we are ready, willing, and able to fulfill our side of that bargain.

Thank you.

Chairman Espy thanked Dr. Boyd for her comments and asked President Williams to introduce his Student Representative. President Williams introduced Mr. Samuel Parks.
SAMUEL N. PARKS, UAH STUDENT REP TO THE BOARD

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board, Chancellor Portera, University Presidents, Administrative Personnel, Faculty, Staff, and distinguished guests, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to The University of Alabama in Huntsville, UAH. Furthermore, I would like to cordially offer my thanks to this body for providing the UAH student body with the opportunity, honor, and privilege to be represented at this time.

Before I begin in earnest, please permit me to apologize...my address to you today will, in all likelihood, seem dreadfully somber and given my preceding comments, redoubtably verbose. However, my somberness is only a reflection of the context in which I make these remarks. Furthermore, it is extremely necessary that I offer clarification on an issue of extreme importance to the students of this institution and the governing body which I represent. I address you today from a podium that bears the moniker “UAHuntsville...” Please do not interpret my actions as the student body’s tacit acceptance of the aforementioned marketing strategy, but rather as a demonstration of the utmost personal respect for Dr. Williams and you, the members of this Board.

It gives me no great pleasure to inform you that the state of the student body at UAH is poor and declining at a prodigious rate.

Currently, student participation in on-campus activities has reached a record low. For example, every Spring the Association for Campus Entertainment hosts a series of events collectively called “SpringFest.” This year, the average participation in these events was between 30-50 students or slightly more than one-half of 1% of the entire student body. The number of chartered clubs and student groups at UAH has also fallen significantly over the course of the last four years, an overall decrease of roughly 33%. However, all of these situations pale in comparison to the growing trend of model students abandoning the University at the end of their freshman or sophomore year.

At first, many of these symptoms might seem completely unrelated; however, a closer examination only proves that they are the direct result of rampant and continually increasing student apathy. While the causes of this behavior displayed by our students vary and differ from person to person, it is possible to discern three broad and overarching causes of this alarming trend, and thus it is also possible to suggest potential remedies and courses of action which may, in time, correct the problem.
The first category that I would like to address today is societal. Unfortunately, apathy is a growing trend both on college campuses and in general American society. Participation in civic life and in organizations of voluntary association has reached an all-time low nationally. It is in this context that we must act. Over the next several years it will be increasingly necessary for this institution and this governing body to support such student development activities as the recently created Empower program, which offers select freshmen and sophomores leadership and group development training.

It is clear that upon arriving at our institutions, our students, in general, no longer posses the leadership skills needed to create a strong sense of community on campus. Leadership development is an ongoing process…it cannot be accomplished in a weekend-long seminar or by attending a motivational conference. By investing in such ongoing activities as this, it will be possible to reverse the aforementioned trends on our campuses, and maybe help resolve the larger national crises…and given the current state of the national political landscape, they could clearly use some assistance.

Somewhat appropriately, over the past few weeks I have been reading several of the inaugural addresses made by former American President’s. And while many of my fellow students will undoubtedly think that I have lost all hope of ever developing much of a social life, I have found many of their remarks to be helpful and even somewhat comforting…but I am consistently drawn to those of Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, and Kennedy.

Please forgive me for sounding cliché, but it was President Kennedy, who, in his inaugural address, stated “ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country…” I realize that my lack of accent cannot do justice to President Kennedy’s words, but it is just as true now at UAH as it was in the early 1960’s; which brings me to the second area of concern. In order for students to truly feel they can make a difference on our campuses, they must also be intricately involved in the various policy decisions of our universities. They must feel as though their opinion matters. The most successful of universities are not solely built upon outstanding academic programs. The most successful of universities are built from the ground up…from the students to the faculty to the body of research. This is the recipe for success that we must develop.

I do recognize, however, that students cannot, nor should they, play a role in every aspect of the University’s decision-making process. If they did, classes would be cancelled for the smallest of threat of a fluke
rainstorm. But in those areas of direct relevance to the student body, the opinions and concerns of the students should be treated with the utmost of equality and respect.

I have chosen to save the largest and most complex category for last. The final broad cause for increasing student apathy is directly related to the physical environment on campus. If the day-to-day interactions of the students with the University are inadequate or unsatisfactory, it is inevitable that the general student body will become increasingly apathetic.

It is for this reason that we must ensure such things as the quality of food prepared in our University dining facilities is at least maintained, if not improved. We must also guarantee that the quality of our residential infrastructure for the delivery of the internet is greatly enhanced. Although these items may seem insignificant, they are comparatively easy to rectify and will yield unsurpassed results in improving the quality of student life and decreasing student indifference.

Another common trait among strong universities is a strong athletics program. Student athletes are often some of the most successful alumni of our institutions; they are also some of the most dedicated. But strong athletics programs also help to unite the entirety of a given university community around a common objective -- competing against other schools. UAH has chosen Ice Hockey as its flagship sport. However, we do not have an on-campus venue in which our athletes can practice and compete. On-campus facilities greatly improve student attendance, and thus additionally help to decrease student apathy. It is for this reason, that I strongly urge this administration and this body to seriously consider the construction of an on-campus Ice Hockey arena.

This brings me to my final policy suggestion. I realize that what I am about to say will be seen by many as radical at best and downright appalling at worst, but I implore you in the true spirit of higher education to take notice of the following arguments. While the students of UAH are blessed by many of the conveniences of life in a major metropolitan area, they are also limited by it, in that there are comparatively few off-campus locations which cater to their desires. Thus, in order to decrease student apathy, it becomes the responsibility of the University to provide for their needs.

Whatever one’s personal feelings of the subject, alcohol is an inevitable part of college life. For many students, this is their first moment of freedom without real parental oversight and supervision. This is a time
in many students’ lives for experimentation, which, for better or worse, often includes alcohol. UAH currently has in place a strict policy which permits students 21 years of age or older to consume alcoholic beverages in the privacy of their residential rooms, which many of my fellow students refer to as the University’s “moist campus policy.”

However, this strategy for the management of the consumption of alcohol does little to manage, and even less to educate, students. Similar to the way “abstinence only” sexual education does little to teach students of the importance of self-protection, so too does the University’s policy on alcohol do little to teach students the importance of safe practices. Of course, I am not suggesting that the consumption of alcohol by minors should be taken lightly, but rather that the current policy prohibits teaching students how to drink responsibly, and thus endangers the entirety of the student body. By amending the University’s policy to permit the legal consumption of alcohol at student events, and requiring incoming freshmen to receive some form of instruction on the sensible consumption of adult beverages, the University can improve the quality of student life as well as decreasing student apathy.

In my second term of office, I have come to realize that universities are, in general, extremely complex systems. Every action taken by one department ultimately has consequences for the entire university. By strengthening the student body of the present, the university will guarantee itself a successful future. UAH currently finds itself gazing into the prospect of limitless possibilities and unsurpassed prosperity. I recognize that change is inevitable, especially in light of some of my policy suggestions. However, in embracing these changes, we must also remember our rich heritage and history. We must remember that there is a direct connection between the progress of a society and its progress in the arts…that the age of Pericles was also the age of Phydius…that the age of Lorenzo de Medici was also the age of Leonardo de Vinci…and that the age of Elizabeth was also the age of Shakespeare.

And as Bill once wrote, “I dare do all that may become a man, he who dares more is none.” I would strongly encourage this body to do the same. Thank you for this opportunity, and on behalf of the student body, I wish you the best in your professional and personal responsibilities.

Chairman Espy thanked Mr. Park for his remarks. He said one of the foundations of our System and a strength of this Board is the participation of the faculty and students.
He said we consider them partners, and that is one of the reasons this System has the strength that it does. He said we appreciate Dr. Boyd and Mr. Parks and the comments they made.

Trustee Lowe was recognized and noted that Mr. Parks found him yesterday in the wrong building, helped him get to the correct location via a short cut, and drove his car around to the front of the building. He said Mr. Parks is a caring person as well as articulate.

Chairman Espy recognized President Witt to introduce his new Student Representative to the Board. President Witt said he was pleased to introduce Cason Kirby, who started approximately two weeks ago as President of the SGA. He is a senior majoring in Political Science and Public Relations with a minor in Liberal Arts. He has held numerous leadership positions in the SGA prior to assuming the presidency and also has served in leadership positions in College Democrats, Freshman Forum, Youth Summit and Alabama Students for Constitutional Reform.

His academic distinctions include President’s List, Dean’s List, Blount Undergraduate Initiative, Cardinal Key, Presidential Scholar, Order of Omega Greek honor society, and University Honors Program.

Mr. Kirby said it was an honor to be with the Board this morning and he looks forward to working with them in the coming years.

Chairman Espy said he is especially excited about his friend Cason Kirby being with us. They are members of the same fraternity, which has had two members elected
Student Body President at the University. Chairman Espy said he had the privilege of being the first and Cason is the second in the history of their fraternity at UA.

Chairman Espy said the Administrative Report had been distributed to all Trustees. After discussion, and on motion of Trustee McMahon, seconded by Trustee Ritch, the Board accepted the Administrative Report. (Exhibit B)

Chairman Espy recognized Trustee Vanessa Leonard for a report from the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee. Trustee Leonard said the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee met yesterday afternoon, with other Trustees present. The Committee considered 13 items for recommendation to the Board for action: five individual action items, and eight administrative action items. One Information Item was also presented. Trustee Leonard said the Committee recommends approval of the items identified on the Board Agenda as F.1. through F.6.h.

After discussion, and on motion of Trustee Leonard, seconded by Trustee Urquhart, the Board adopted the following resolutions, separately and severally:

(Insert Resolutions)

Chairman Espy thanked Trustee Leonard for her report and recognized Trustee John England for a report from the Finance Committee. Trustee England said the Finance Committee met today, with other Trustees in attendance. The Committee reviewed and approved the following resolutions in the Board book: pages 85-90, approving Tuition and Fees for First Professional Students in Medicine, Dentistry, and Optometry for FY 2008-2009 at UAB; page 91, approving Tuition for The College of
Community Health Sciences for FY 2008-2009 at UA; and the Administrative Item on pages 107-109.

*The resolution approving changes to Board Rule 411 was tabled by the Committee and the first item, on page 83, was withdrawn by UAH.*

After discussion, and on motion of Trustee England, seconded by Trustee Brooks, the Board adopted the following resolutions, separately and severally:

(Insert resolutions)

Chairman Espy thanked Trustee England for his report and recognized Trustee Paul W. Bryant, Jr., for a report from the Physical Properties Committee. Trustee Bryant said the Physical Properties Committee met yesterday and considered six resolutions for action by the Board which are included in the Board book on pages 110-111 and 126-161. A seventh resolution, included in the Board book on pages 112-125, was removed from the agenda by The University of Alabama.

The Committee thoroughly reviewed and approved these resolutions and recommends the approval of these items identified on the Board Agenda as H.1.a.1) and H.1.b.2) through H.3.b.1).

After discussion, and on motion of Trustee Bryant, seconded by Trustee Ritch, the Committee adopted the following resolutions, separately and severally:

(Insert Resolutions)

Trustee Bryant said the Committee also approved a suspension of the rules and amending of the Agenda to include an additional item at the request of UAH. The
resolution, requesting authorization for purchase of property at 708 Erskine Street, in the Sanderson Subdivision in Huntsville, was reviewed and approved by the Committee and the Committee now recommends approval by the Board.

After discussion, and on motion of Trustee Bryant, seconded by Trustee Hurst, the Board adopted the following resolution:

(Insert Resolution)

Chairman Espy thanked Trustee Bryant for his report and recognized Trustee Andria Hurst for a report from the Honorary Degrees and Recognition Committee. Trustee Hurst said the Honorary Degrees and Recognition Committee met on April 8, by telephone conference call, and again yesterday afternoon in this room, with a majority of the Trustees in attendance.

The Committee approved for recommendation to the Board a resolution naming the Computer Laboratory in the Mechanical Engineering Department of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Technology Hall Room N 278, The Mark V. Bower Computer Laboratory. Trustee Hurst said the Committee also approved for recommendation to the Board an Honorary Degree to Mrs. Ann K. Jones at UA.

After discussion, and on motion of Trustee Hurst, seconded by Trustee Urquhart, the Board adopted the following resolution and approved the Honorary Degree for Mrs. Ann K. Jones at UA, separately and severally:

(Insert Resolution)
Chairman Espy thanked Trustee Hurst for her report and recognized Trustee Marietta Urquhart, in the absence of Chairman Finis St. John IV, for a report from the Task Force on Committees. Trustee Urquhart said the Task Force on Committees met and continued its review of the Committee structure. No action was taken. The Task Force invites the input of all Trustees as we continue in this review.

Chairman Espy thanked Trustee Urquhart for her report.

Chairman Espy said the Administrative Action Items are listed on the Agenda and are normally acted upon as a unit, separately and severally. He said the Board needs to approve an amendment to the resolution on page 233, appointing members of the Board of Directors of the Crimson Tide Foundation and ratifying their service from their original election. He said they are reappointing the members of the Foundation, Trustees Bryant, Cooper, McMahon, and Wilson, Emeritus Trustee Thomas, and President Witt, by virtue of his office. There is also to be a designee of the Chancellor and he has designated Vice Chancellor Ray Hayes. Mr. Hayes needs to be added to the resolution as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors.

Hearing no object from the Trustees, this resolution will be amended to add Mr. Hayes and it will be voted on with the other resolutions under the Administrative Action Items.

Chairman Espy noted the resolution on page 187, item k., in honor of Jim Hayes, who is a great friend of the System and UA. This gift creates a Jim Hayes Moral Forum
Endowed Support Fund in the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at UA and recognizes the many accomplishments of Mr. Hayes.

He asked if anyone wished to speak to any of the other items.

After discussion, and on motion of Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Lowe, the Board adopted the following resolutions, separately and severally, including the amendment to item J.2. on the Crimson Tide Foundation:

(Insert Resolutions)

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Espy expressed to the staff of UAHuntsville appreciation for the great job they have done in making this a good and positive meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was recessed subject to call of the Chair.

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Michael A. Bownes, Secretary