

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM OFFICE  
VIA ZOOM AND CAMMACK CONFERENCE ROOM  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
1:00 P.M., APRIL 24, 2023

TRUSTEES PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Chairman Morril Harriman; Trustees Sheffield Nelson; Kelly Eichler; Tommy Boyer; Steve Cox; Ed Fryar, Ph.D.; Ted Dickey; Kevin Crass and Jeremy Wilson

TRUSTEE PRESENT IN PERSON:

Trustee Nate Todd.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS  
AND OTHERS PRESENT:

System Administration:

President Donald R. Bobbitt, Vice President for Planning and Development Chris Thomason, Interim General Counsel Patrick Hollingsworth, Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael K. Moore, Vice President for University Relations Melissa Rust, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Tara Smith, Associate Vice President for Finance Chaundra Hall, Senior Director of Policy and Public Affairs Ben Beaumont, Director of Communications Nate Hinkel, Associate Vice President for Benefits and Risk Management Services Steve Wood, Chief Information Officer Steven Fulkerson, Assistant to the President Angela Hudson and Associate for Administration Sylvia White.

Special Guests:

Marshall McKissack, Julie Miceli, Jonathan Giokas, Ericka Curls Bartling, Lisa Paker, Steven Carman, Matt Waller, Ben Hyneman, and Gina Terry.

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas was called to order at 1:06 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023.

Discussion of Potential Affiliation Between the University of Arkansas System and Transformative Education Services, Inc., UASYS:

Chair Harriman directed that the minutes reflect Trustee Eichler's abstention from voting on this item. President Donald R. Bobbitt started the discussion with a brief synopsis of the contemplated affiliation. Trustees Fryar, Harriman, Crass, Nelson, Todd and Wilson each addressed the Trustees presenting their thoughts about the pros and cons of the potential affiliation between the University of Arkansas System and Transformative Education Services, Inc.

Upon completion of the discussion, the chair called for a vote on the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the historic mission of the University of Arkansas System is to disseminate knowledge and provide broad access to academic and professional education across Arkansas and beyond; and

WHEREAS, during the past two decades this mission has evolved to include the growth and development of online academic programming across the campuses of the system and through the launch of the University of Arkansas System *e*Versity in 2015 and the subsequent acquisition of Grantham University in 2021 to merge with *e*Versity as the system's exclusively online institution as University of Arkansas Grantham; and

WHEREAS, the system remains open to exploring opportunities to further expand its educational footprint and to generate new revenue streams to ensure the financial stability and viability of each system campus, division and unit during a time when public higher education faces twin pressures on enrollment and public funding; and

WHEREAS, Transformative Education Services, Inc., (TES) was recently established in Arkansas as a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide access to higher education opportunities that enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their professional goals, improve the productivity of their organizations, and provide leadership and service to their communities; and

WHEREAS, TES is actively negotiating a potential acquisition of the University of Phoenix (UoP) with the intent to begin a mutually beneficial collaboration with the UA System as TES transitions UoP to nonprofit status; and

WHEREAS, the contemplated relationship between the UA System and TES would provide the system with access to innovative technological resources, retention strategies, and employer relationships to better serve students and yield new revenue to be invested back into system programming; and

WHEREAS, the contemplated structure and relationship between the system and TES is mutually beneficial to both parties and does not impose on the system any financial obligation related to the potential TES acquisition of UoP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board hereby expresses its support of the contemplated relationship between the University of Arkansas System and Transformative Education Services, Inc.

The resolution failed to pass. The vote tally follows:

Trustees voting yes: Dickey, Fryar, Todd, Wilson  
Trustees voting no: Boyer, Crass, Cox, Harriman, Nelson  
Trustee abstaining: Eichler

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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Kelly Eichler, Secretary