

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VIA VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON
UA SYSTEM OFFICE, CAMMACK CONFERENCE ROOM
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
3:30 P.M., JULY 18, 2024

TRUSTEE PRESENT:

Chair Kelly Eichler.

TRUSTEES PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Trustees Sheffield Nelson; Tommy Boyer; Steve Cox; Ed Fryar, Ph.D.; Ted Dickey, Jeremy Wilson, Nate Todd, Kevin Crass and Scott Ford.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS
AND OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON
OR VIA ZOOM:

System Administration:

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

UAMS Representatives:

Chancellor Cam Patterson; Senior Vice Chancellor for UAMS Health and Chief Executive Officer, UAMS Medical Center Michelle Krause and Chief of Staff Michael Manley.

UALR Representative:

Vice Chancellor for Finance Jerry Ganz.

UAM Representative:
Chancellor Peggy Doss.

UAFS Representative:
Chancellor Terisa Riley.

PCCUA Representative:
Chancellor Keith Pinchback.

UACCH-T Representatives:
Chancellor Christine Holt and Vice
Chancellor for Finance Sherri Ford.

UACCB Representatives:
Chancellor Brian Shonk and Vice Chancellor
for Student Affairs Zach Perrine.

UACCM Representatives:
Chancellor Lisa G. Willenberg, Vice
Chancellor for Finance Jeff Mullen and Vice
Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard
Counts.

UA – PTC Representative:
Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management
and Student Life John Lewis.

UACS Representative:
Dean Victoria DeFrancesco Soto.

UA Grantham Representative:
Chancellor Lindsay Bridgeman.

Members of the Press.

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas was called to order at 3:39 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and via virtually. Upon motion of Trustee Dickey and second by Trustee Wilson, Chair Eichler stated the Board would go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the employment, appointment or resignation of public officers or employees for the various campuses of the University of Arkansas System.

1. Executive Session:

Chair Eichler reconvened the Regular Session of the Board at 4:37 p.m. and called for action on the following matter discussed in Executive Session:

Approval Concerning Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt's Retirement as President:

Upon motion by Trustee Dickey and second by Trustee Fryar, the Board accepted President Donald R. Bobbitt's retirement request and authorized Chair Eichler to negotiate with Dr. Bobbitt more specific terms of a retirement agreement enabling the Board to plan for transition upon the selection of a new president.

2. Regular Session:

Chair Eichler made comments publicly thanking President Bobbitt for his 13 years of service as a "consummate professional," and that the president is "leaving the System in a strong position," for which the Board is "incredibly grateful." Trustee Fryar stated that Dr. Bobbitt had done a "great job." Trustee Ford said that he, "would love to compliment (Dr. Bobbitt) for the work that he's done, the team that he's built and the progress they've made," and that he has "tremendous respect and gratitude" for the leader — and the man — that (Dr. Bobbitt) is, adding that he (Ford) values him greatly and is "immensely grateful" for his work.

Chair Eichler further stated that she has given thought to the future leadership and wanted to appoint Trustee Ford to head up the search, calling on a vote as follows.

Approval Concerning Commencing a Search for a New President of the UA System

Upon motion by Trustee Dickey and second by Trustee Wilson, the Board voted to appoint Trustee Scott Ford to lead the effort to fill the position of President and to work with the UA Foundation to seek the services of, and contract with, a search firm to be paid from private funds.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion by Trustee Dickey and second by Trustee Wilson, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.