

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
University of Kentucky  
Friday, February 19, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky met on Friday, February 19, 2021, via Zoom Webinar.

I. Meeting Opened

Bob Vance, chair of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Chair Vance asked Secretary Webb to announce the members present.

II. Roll Call

The following members of the Board of Trustees were in attendance: Claude A. "Skip" Berry, Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, Michael A. Christian, Ray Daniels, Ron Geoghegan, Kimberly McCann, Elizabeth McCoy, David Melanson, Paula Leach Pope, Derrick K. Ramsey, Sandra R. Shuffett, Bryan Sunderland, Hollie Swanson, Robert Vance, Rachel Watts Webb, Courtney Wheeler and Barbara Young. Trustees Joe R. Bowen, Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton and C. Frank Shoop were not in attendance.

Secretary Webb announced a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Vance reported that there had been three petitions to address the Board since the last Board of Trustees meeting concerning men's basketball players kneeling before a game in early January. It was determined the subject matter of the petitions was not relevant to a pending or future agenda, or essential information necessary for the Board to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and the requests were forwarded to the Athletics Department.

Chair Vance stated that the minutes of the December 15, 2020, meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee McCoy moved approval and Trustee Sunderland seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent. (See meeting minutes on the Board of Trustees website, [www.uky.edu/Trustees](http://www.uky.edu/Trustees), under "Agenda")

Chair Vance called attention to the 14 consent items on the agenda.

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| PR 2    | Personnel Actions  |
| ASACR 1 | Academic Degree Recommendation: Gatton College of Business and Economics     |
| ASACR 2 | Creation of the Department of Engineering Technology: College of Engineering |
| FCR 1   | Lease/Purchase of Equipment for the Smart Campus Initiative                  |

FCR 2	Approval of Disposal of Real Property
FCR 3	Negotiated Disposition of Personal Property
FCR 4	Construct/Improve Greek Housing (Delta Gamma) Capital Project
FCR 5	Repair/Upgrade/Expand Central Plants - Deaerators Capital Project
FCR 6	Improve Campus Parking and Transportation System 2021 Maintenance Capital Project
FCR 7	Capital Construction Report
FCR 8	Patent Report
ACC 1	FY 2020-21 Audit Engagement Letter
ACC 2	Audit and Compliance Committee Revised Charter
ACC 3	Revised UK Internal Audit Charter

Chair Vance asked if there were any requests to remove items from the consent agenda. Hearing none, Chair Vance asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Geoghegan moved approval, Trustee Young seconded the motion and the consent agenda passed without dissent. (See consent items on the Board of Trustees website, [www.uky.edu/Trustees](http://www.uky.edu/Trustees), under “Agenda”)

#### IV. Chair’s Report

Chair Vance reported that the Executive Committee called a special meeting on January 29th to discuss a joint venture between the University of Kentucky and King’s Daughters Health System. He stated that the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Board believed it was in the best interests of the university to offer its support for the joint venture between the University of Kentucky and King’s Daughters Health System and directs the president and Beyond Blue, its affiliated corporation, to take the necessary steps to implement the transaction.

Chair Vance asked for a motion to approve ECR 1, ratifying the Executive Committee’s approval of its support for the joint venture. Trustee Black moved approval, Trustee Wheeler seconded the motion, and the recommendation passed with 17 approvals and one abstention from Trustee McCann. (See ECR 1 on the Board of Trustees website, [www.uky.edu/Trustees](http://www.uky.edu/Trustees), under “Board of Trustees Agenda”)

The chairman then introduced the president for his report.

#### V. President’s Report

The president thanked Chair Vance and began his remarks by discussing the twin pandemics. “We talk often in this space about the twin pandemics that face our country. One infects our lungs and bodies, and another can afflict our hearts and minds. This university steps forward knowing that we must play a role in asking and answering critical questions in the face of both. So, what do we ask ourselves? How do we, the University of Kentucky family, bring the prospect of hope and healing, reckoning and reconciliation to these historical challenges. The University of Kentucky, your university, the Commonwealth’s university, has long been a source of hope. But we all know that hope

alone is not a strategy or a plan. Today, in this moment and this place, we must be a source of strategies and solutions that make hope real. In the fight against a virus that jumps from continent to continent, country to country in mere months and with impunity, life-saving vaccines have been developed in record time moving from the laboratory to the marketplace.”

The president continued, “You saw at our last meeting those vaccines arriving at the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital. It is a historic feat of science and discovery. We have been home to one of the clinical trials, the best enrolled in the world, that will help bring to the market what is expected to be the next vaccine approved for distribution, a one-shot solution from Johnson & Johnson. But that is only the beginning for us. UK is also playing an outsized and pivotal role in delivering life-saving vaccines to Kentuckians. Last month, in partnership with the state, we launched a regional COVID-19 vaccine distribution center at Kroger Field, a collaboration among UK HealthCare, UK Athletics, our Emergency Operations Center, and hundreds of volunteers among students, faculty and staff in our health colleges. In alignment with state guidance, UK HealthCare began vaccinating healthcare workers in December, those on the front lines of combating this deadly virus. To date, thousands of doses have been delivered to those who have willingly risked all for so many.”

The president continued, “Following those important efforts and after demonstrating to our partners that we had both the infrastructure and the logistical capability to vaccinate on a larger scale, the state turned to us. We raised our hands and said if you make the vaccine available, we will inoculate all of our K through 12 employees in Fayette County, some-9,000 people, and we did the bulk of those in just two weeks. Our schools are ready to return. Our children are ready to learn together. But that is only one part of our mission. We have provided nearly 1,800 doses to first responders. We have provided hope and healing through more than 20,000 to those over the age of 70. We have vaccinated thousands on our campus, too; teachers and custodians, researchers and groundskeepers, those who work in residence halls and dining facilities, and who risk more to do more for our students each and every day.”

The president discussed the next phase of vaccine distribution, providing doses to essential employees of businesses and institutions across the community, including more members of the UK Community. “In recent days we have increased the capacity of what was already the state’s largest vaccination center. We will move from roughly 300 people an hour to 400 people an hour who can be vaccinated when operating at full capacity. We will go from the potential of nearly 3,000 shots of hope a day to well over 4,000 a day. To date, we have administered more than 60,000 doses, a size, scope and scale unlike anything else in Kentucky. If you have been to the clinic or Kroger Field, as I have, you can see the relief on people’s faces, the joy in their eyes as they think about the burdens lifted and anxieties eased by this vaccine.”

The president continued, “We know that while this virus moves indiscriminately, it still discriminates. It accelerates and exacerbates health disparities and access for those already medically underserved.” The president announced a mobile vaccination clinic UK

is launching over the next several weeks, in partnership with the state and city of Lexington, that will include four sites in Lexington. “We get started this weekend and will vaccinate thousands of people in our county, particularly in communities of color who have not had access to these vaccines. We are taking real hope and solutions on the road, meeting people where the need is great. This is another example of fulfilling our role as the University of, for and with Kentucky.”

The president continued, “All of this is made possible because of our people. Volunteers from our health colleges banded together to provide additional vaccines at Kroger Field, opening the clinics on Saturday afternoons to move another 1,000 patients through those doors each week. Faculty, staff and students from across this entire campus have volunteered to serve in the non-clinical roles, manning registration desks, providing directions and assisting those with limited mobility in navigating that space. Staff from across the campus have taken on new duties to assist with scheduling, customer service and other logistical needs. Our facilities management staff have repeatedly arrived in the early hours and stayed into the late hours to clear sidewalks and shovel snow around the stadium to make sure we could provide access to these precious vaccines. Long hours, difficult days, complex logistical lists, but every day and every step of the way our people knew they were part of something important, something bigger than themselves. They were part of providing real hope.”

The president continued, “And what about the other pandemic? We are continuing our journey in making our campus a place of acceptance and belonging for our students, faculty, staff, the larger community, everyone who calls this place home. And at the center of this work is our Office for Institutional Diversity. Dr. George Wright has been leading our efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) on an interim basis since June of last year. He will continue in his role as a senior advisor to me once we name the next vice president for institutional diversity. The search committee for this position met earlier this week and is ably chaired by Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Bob DiPaola, and Interim Dean of Students, Dr. Trisha Clement Montgomery. But we have not lessened our pace. We are not resting our efforts to make this campus more welcoming, accessible and accepting of all people.”

The president continued, “Last year our team came to the board reinvigorated with a plan to respond to the injustices of the past, both recent and long ago. With a plan of progress, it was the structure and framework for this institution toward diversity, equity and inclusion. Since then, scores of faculty, staff, students, more than some-600 people have given their most valuable resource, their time, talent and ideas, as part of 17 projects in Phase 1 of the university’s DEI Plan. Universities across the country, like communities throughout America, are reckoning with historic and systemic racism and injustice. We spent time together yesterday learning to better understand the often-biased lens in which we view and understand some of these issues. This institution, like others, has a complex and fraught history with race. It was only a little more than 70 years ago that we were first integrated when Lyman T. Johnson forced us to reckon with, at times, an ugly history. Our physical spaces and mental places are marked by that history, too, even to this day. It is up to us to uncover our history and repair that which is not yet whole. We have made

undeniable progress for which we should be proud, educating and graduating more students of color than any university in the state, and it was not always that way. But stubborn gaps in academic progress remain. We know that and we must do more to provide greater opportunities for staff and faculty of color, not only to join our community but to be elevated and promoted as well.”

The president discussed how the university reconciles the past by making significant advances with matters where UK falls short. “The answer for a university like ours is in our capacity to do what makes us truly remarkable and special. We are a place always motivated by the continued commitment of reflection, renewal and being better each and every day. We are willing to promote our progress, yes, but we also must be willing to just as readily confront and interrogate those times in our past and our present, when our deeds did not match our words.”

The president then provided highlights of the work being done under Interim Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Senior Advisor to the President Dr. George Wright’s leadership. “This afternoon I have a progress report on three projects where significant steps forward are being made.” He then discussed three of the 17 major projects that are part of UK’s DEI Implementation Plan.

**Project 12**, led by Interim Assistant Vice President for Auxiliaries Andrew Smith and Vice President for Facilities Management Mary Vosevich, is focused on creating a diversity and inclusivity master plan. The members are working to identify existing areas of concern on the campus relative to institutional art, history, sculpture and civic landscapes, accessibility and other barriers to inclusion within the buildings across this campus. The plan will include efforts across the entire campus and complement our existing master plan, which has guided so much of the transformation of our campus, from buildings and transportation routes to additional green space and gathering places.

The president expounded, “To help facilitate this work, we have embraced best-in-class consulting firm Sasaki, which helped with the creation of our campus master plan several years ago. They will help us engage stakeholders from around the university collaboratively. The master plan will include a vision that can be implemented for transforming the campus over time to create a more inclusive, equitable and barrier-free environment. Over the next several months they will talk with students, faculty, staff and alumni to deeply understand and gather ideas for the plan’s development.”

**Project 13**, the creation of a dedicated art fund that will incorporate diverse and inclusive public art on campus. Led by Executive Director for Strategic Analysis and Policy Melody Flowers, this project will establish a standing DEI Public Art Committee to provide input and support necessary for a successful university-wide public art initiative. The fund will purchase or commission diverse and inclusive public art through an allocation from capital projects over a million dollars.

The president stated, “But our role in diversity and equity must extend beyond our campus community and to the broader community we serve. Chief Procurement Officer

Barry Swanson has led a team focused on how we increase diversity among the suppliers and others with whom our university does business. This is an opportunity to open wider the doors to a very strong relationship with minority-owned businesses and suppliers.”

**Project 14**, the president announced the hiring of a Supplier Diversity Manager. “I’m pleased to share that after a national search, Ms. Marilyn Clark has agreed to join the university as supplier diversity manager. This is a most critical position that will provide the dedicated focus required to build trust and credibility in the community related to procurement. Ms. Clark, who is deeply respected throughout our community, joins UK after spending more than five years with Fayette County Schools in a very similar role.”

The president stated, “It is not possible for me this afternoon to share all the progress and thank all the individuals who are working on 17 total projects, but they all come together to advance UK’s vision for a more diverse, equitable and inclusive campus community. We will be back to you in the future with more reports. The work of these individuals in our collective community is not finished. Much has been done, but much more still remains to do. Together we are finding ways anew, in our time and at this moment, to answer the challenge that we have been called to grapple with, bringing the prospect of hope and healing, reckoning and reconciliation to this generation and to those who will follow.”

#### Honorary Degree Recipients (PR 3)

The president introduced PR 3, the recommendation that the Board of Trustees award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Deirdre Lyons and Mr. Carl F. Pollard, as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Chair Vance asked for a motion to approve PR 3. Trustee Shuffett moved approval. Trustee Berry seconded the motion and the recommendation passed without dissent. (See PR 3 on the Board of Trustees website, [www.uky.edu/Trustees](http://www.uky.edu/Trustees), under agenda.)

#### Appointment to the Board of the Humanities Foundation (PR 4)

The president introduced PR 4 that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Mr. John Edinger to the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Humanities Foundation for a six-year term, ending February 28, 2027.

Chair Vance asked for a motion to approve PR 4. Trustee Young moved approval. Trustee Melanson seconded the motion and the recommendation passed without dissent. (See PR 4 on the Board of Trustees website, [www.uky.edu/Trustees](http://www.uky.edu/Trustees), under agenda.)

Chair Vance then called on Committee chairs for their reports.

## VI. University Health Care Committee Report

Trustee Young reported that the University Health Care Committee met the day before and Dr. Newman discussed four new members of the UK HealthCare leadership team, including the CEO of King's Daughters Health System Kristie Whitlatch. Ms. Whitlatch will officially join the UK HealthCare team on April 1st when UK HealthCare's management agreement to operate King's Daughters Health System begins. Trustee Young emphasized the significance of the new hospital partnership and the opportunities it creates to serve patients from the greater Ashland/Tri-State community.

Trustee Young continued, "Dr. Newman reported that organizational readiness activities to launch the new electronic health record are a major focus for the entire organization at this time. The estimated \$315 million capital project was approved by the Board at the April 2019 meeting and UK HealthCare will launch the new system in 106 days."

Trustee Young reported that Dr. Jay Grider briefed the Committee on the impressive efforts at Kroger Field to administer as many as 2,600 COVID-19 vaccines per day by volunteer workers and Dr. Grider thanked the teams from both the University and UK HealthCare for all their efforts to operationalize the largest vaccine distribution site in the state of Kentucky.

Trustee Young reported that the Committee received an update on the diversity, equity and inclusion efforts from UK HealthCare's Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Tukea Talbert and the UK College of Medicine's Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Stephanie White. Doctors White and Talbert discussed foundational actions, milestones and actions underway to achieve an inclusive and diverse workforce at UK HealthCare. Additionally, she reported that in FY21 December, UK HealthCare had a 3.6% positive variance to budget of \$8.4 million and a year-to-date positive variance of 10% or \$147 million. She concluded that the Committee approved the list of privileges and appointments submitted by the UK HealthCare Medical Staff.

## VII. Investment Committee Report

Trustee McCoy reported the Investment Committee met the day before to review performance results and conduct other business. She stated that the Endowment pool had a market value of \$1.8 billion as of December 31, 2020 and gained an estimated 13.7% in the six-month fiscal year to date period. U.S. and international equity exposure were the primary contributors to performance for the period. The Investment Committee also heard reports including a public equity strategy review from Fund Evaluation Group (FEG) and a report on manager appointments, terminations and due diligence since the last meeting was presented by Chief Investment Officer Todd Shupp and Investment Officer Nancy Rohde.

VIII. Closing and Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel", written in a cursive style.

Rachel Watts Webb  
Secretary

(PR 2, ASACR 1, ASACR 2, FCR 1, FCR 2, FCR 3, FCR 4, FCR 5, FCR 6, FCR 7, FCR 8, FCR 9, ACC 1, ACC 2 and ACC 3 are official parts of the Minutes of the meeting)