

Minutes of the Human Resources and University Relations Committee
University of Kentucky Board of Trustees
Thursday, June 17, 2021

The Human Resources and University Relations Committee of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, June 17, 2021, in the Gatton Student Center, Harris Ballroom.

A. Call to Order

Sandy Shuffett, chair of the Human Resources and University Relations Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chair Shuffett asked Katie Hardwick to announce the attendance.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, David Melanson, Paula Pope, Sandy Shuffett, Bryan Sunderland and Courtney Wheeler.

Ms. Hardwick announced a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Sunderland to approve the minutes from the Friday, February 19, 2021 Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Melanson. The motion carried without dissent.

D. University Partnerships

Chair Shuffett introduced Mayor Linda Gorton, the longest continuously serving member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, serving 16 years including four years as Vice Mayor. She is currently in her first term as Lexington Mayor.

Mayor Gorton thanked the Board for inviting her back to speak and stated that one of the first things she did as a new mayor was speak to the UK Board of Trustees back in June 2019. She shared the importance of the partnership between the university and the city and explained that her inauguration took place on campus which had never been done before. "Dr. Capilouto and I sent a very clear message to our community. UK and the city would walk hand in hand into the future."

Mayor Gorton stated, "I was ready for pretty much anything our city could dish out not ever imagining that we would have a pandemic." She explained that the combination of being a registered nurse and a graduate of the University of Kentucky helped her during

the pandemic. “My education and years of experience in nursing helped me anticipate what steps I needed to take to get our city through this pandemic.”

Mayor Gorton continued, “Partnerships, especially the partnership with the University of Kentucky, have gotten our city through this pandemic.” She explained that prior to Kentucky’s first case of COVID-19 stakeholders were brought together to establish preparation messages and how they would be communicated across the community.

Mayor Gorton stated that the partnership between the University of Kentucky and the city played an important role in administering nearly 250,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine. “It is a huge piece of why we are able to reopen our city this summer, why we are not in masks anymore.”

Mayor Gorton thanked President Capilouto for his public statement that the university would not lay people off during the pandemic. “UK’s strong fiscal stewardship prevented across the board cuts to its workforce.”

Mayor Gorton discussed the partnerships that were formed between the city and the university during the mostly peaceful protests which focused on systemic racism. “We realized this was a precious opportunity to right some wrongs, to root out systemic racism in our city and again the University of Kentucky was right there.”

Mayor Gorton explained that she appointed a Racial Justice and Equality Commission on July 1, 2020, on which two members of UK served. Simultaneously, the university began working on a comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion implementation plan.

Mayor Gorton continued her report by thanking Eric Monday for his assistance with the Coldstream Research Campus. “In 2018, UK gave the city 250 acres to be used for economic development at Coldstream. In exchange, the city gave the university ownership of some sections of streets near campus.”

Mayor Gorton discussed the amenities that would be available at Coldstream including the cycling and walking trail. She announced that ground had been broken for a new residential village, enabling the workforce to live, work, play and innovate all within the research campus.

Mayor Gorton described a new Coldstream research lab under construction named “The Core – Collaboration. Research. Entrepreneurship”, which will provide wet lab space for both UK startups and early stage, high-tech companies across Kentucky.

Mayor Gorton shared examples of how Coldstream Research Campus will provide opportunities for financial growth. “Businesses on this property will produce local payroll and net profits revenue allowing us to further invest in our community.”

Mayor Gorton closed her remarks by reiterating the value of the partnerships between the university and the city.

Chair Shuffett opened the floor for questions.

Trustee Swanson asked for more information on lines of business that would most likely succeed in the local community. Mayor Gorton discussed the diverse nature of Lexington's economy and the continued need for different types of businesses. She explained one of her priorities is ag tech and shared a partnership formed with Vice President and Dean Nancy Cox, Dr. Mark Lyons and Commissioner Ryan Quarles to bring ag tech possibilities to the forefront.

Trustee Blonder asked for an update on the Town Branch Trail. Mayor Gorton explained that there will be 22 miles of trail that will connect the Legacy Trail and the Town Branch Trail with an anticipated completion date in 2022.

Trustee Daniels asked about challenges Mayor Gorton expects for the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Mayor Gorton discussed the budget challenges and the current stronger than expected revenues. She explained that the revenue situation is uncertain, and the budget will continue to be a challenge. Mayor Gorton described the need to fill open positions and get people back to work.

Chair Shuffett and Trustee Swanson asked about the status and safety of electric scooters. Mayor Gorton explained that electric scooters are here in Lexington and that people are riding them. She stated that there are people who follow the rules and people who do not, but that they will release more safety information and guidelines.

Chair Shuffett thanked Mayor Gorton, "Thank you Mayor Gorton for the role you play in uplifting our community and helping shape an even brighter future for the city of Lexington."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige Noland