

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
University of Kentucky
Friday, February 21, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky met on Friday, February 21, 2025 in the Gatton Student Center, Harris Ballroom.

I. Call to Order

E. Britt Brockman, chair of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and asked Secretary Black to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

The following members of the Board of Trustees were in attendance: Hubie Ballard, Claude A. "Skip" Berry, Cathy A. Black, Alex Boone, E. Britt Brockman, Todd Case, Ray Daniels, Maddie Duff, David Figg, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Gosney, Janie Greer, Lance Lucas, Elizabeth McCoy, David Melanson, Hannah Myers, Paula Leach Pope, Frank Shoop, Hollie Swanson and Robert Vance.

Secretary Black announced a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brockman stated that the minutes of the December 3, 2024, meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee McCoy moved approval and Trustee Duff seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Brockman reported there had been no petitions to address the Board and reported there were 25 consent agenda items, including:

PR 2	Personnel Actions
ASACR 1	Undergraduate Certificate: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
ASACR 2	Graduate Certificate: College of Social Work
ASACR 3	Academic Degree: Gatton College of Business and Economics
ASACR 4	Deletion of Certificate: Pigman College of Engineering
ASACR 5	Deletion of Certificate: College of Education
ASACR 6	Deletion of Certificate: College of Fine Arts
ASACR 7	Academic Degree: College of Health Sciences
ACC 1	Amend UK Internal Audit FY 2024-25 Work Prioritization
ACC 2	Execute FY 2024-25 Audit Engagement Letter
FCR 1	Acceptance of Charitable Grant Commitment: College of Medicine
FCR 2	Acceptance of Charitable Gift Commitment: College of Medicine

FCR 3	Acceptance of Charitable Grant Commitment: Gatton College of Business and Economics
FCR 4	Acceptance of Charitable Grant and Gift Commitments: Gatton College of Business and Economics
FCR 5	Acceptance of Charitable Grant: Pollard Scholarship Fund
FCR 6	Acceptance of Charitable Gift Commitment: College of Medicine
FCR 7	Approval of Ground Lease: Coldstream Research Campus
FCR 8	Improve Campus Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project
FCR 9	Improve Building Systems: UK HealthCare Capital Projects
FCR 10	Improve Medical Facility 3: King's Daughters Medical Center Capital Project
FCR 11	Construct Medical Facility: King's Daughters Medical Center Capital Project
FCR 12	Improve Kroger Field 2: Stadium Maintenance Capital Project
FCR 13	Capital Construction Report
FCR 14	Patent Assignment Report
	UK HealthCare Medical Staff Privileges and Appointments

Chair Brockman asked if there were any requests to remove an item from the consent agenda. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Case moved approval; Trustee Ballard seconded the motion and the consent agenda passed without dissent.

Chair Brockman recognized President Capilouto for his report.

V. President's Report

President Capilouto began by acknowledging the dedication and hard work of staff members who contribute significantly to the University of Kentucky. He introduced the stories of multiple employees, highlighting their commitment and service.

The President expressed appreciation for all the staff members who help keep the campus running, from facilities and grounds crews to UK Police, public safety officials, student success staff and health care providers. He acknowledged their essential role in ensuring the safety and success of the University's community, no matter the weather conditions.

The President shared that throughout his 14 years at the University, he has witnessed countless moments of triumph and challenge, further reinforcing his belief that every employee has a compelling story. These stories reflect the unwavering commitment of staff members who contribute to the success of the University and its mission.

He acknowledged the tireless efforts of staff during inclement weather, noting that teams work long hours, sometimes up to 12-hour shifts, around the clock to ensure the campus remains functional. He shared that he witnesses their work firsthand as he lives on campus and sees the results of their efforts.

The President shifted focus to the recent flooding and storms that affected Kentucky. He reported that the University quickly activated its Emergency Operations Center and coordinated efforts to provide assistance to those impacted. More than 20,000 students living in affected areas were contacted to offer support, and resources such as water, supplies and vaccines were delivered to communities in need. The University set up donation sites and collaborated with various organizations to provide aid to the affected regions.

The President emphasized that while the University is not the only organization providing assistance, the sense of community at the University of Kentucky is unique. He stressed that the University's commitment to service and its motto of being "for and with Kentucky" is more than just a slogan; it is a guiding principle.

The President concluded by acknowledging the challenges the University is currently facing but expressed confidence in its ability to overcome these challenges. He praised the resilience and dedication of faculty, staff and students, reaffirming the University's mission to educate, serve and heal.

The President invited colleagues who have demonstrated exceptional service in recent weeks to be recognized for their contributions. The President's report concluded with a recognition of these dedicated staff members.

PR 3 Appointment of the Dean: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

President Capilouto introduced PR 3, a recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Laura Stephenson as dean of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, effective January 1, 2025.

Dr. Stephenson earned her B.S. and M.A. in Vocational Home Economics from Eastern Kentucky University and a Ph.D. in Gerontology from the University of Kentucky. She has dedicated her career to addressing community needs by leveraging research-based expertise from faculty and extension agents. Dr. Stephenson values partnerships with commodity groups, local leaders and statewide stakeholders.

Dr. Stephenson joined the University in 2018 and served as Associate Dean and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and Associate Vice President of Land-Grant Engagement. Her extensive career in the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service included positions as County Agent, District Director, and Assistant Director for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension Field Programs. Additionally, she served as Associate Dean and Department Chair for FCS Extension at the University of Tennessee.

Her commitment to the land-grant mission, teaching, research and extension, is unwavering. Dr. Stephenson's vision focuses on strengthening Kentucky's agriculture, economy and health by educating future leaders, fostering innovation through cutting-edge research and expanding outreach efforts to create a meaningful and lasting impact on communities across the Commonwealth and beyond.

Additionally, in her roll as dean, she serves as the Vice President of Land-grant Engagement.

Chair Brockman asked for a motion to approve PR 3. Trustee McCoy moved approval, and Trustee Figg seconded the motion. With no further discussion, PR 3 passed without dissent.

VI. Other Business

Chair Brockman reminded the Board that immediately following the Board meeting, the Founders Day Award Reception will occur celebrating former Board Chair Jim Hardyman.

The Founders Day Award is presented annually to recognize individuals who personify goodwill and demonstrate, through their work, service, mission and spirit, a dedication to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its residents.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Brockman asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy A. Black".

Cathy A. Black
Secretary