

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
University of Kentucky  
Friday, February 20, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky met on Friday, February 20, 2026, 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 1:18 p.m. and asked Secretary Myers to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

The following members of the Board of Trustees were in attendance: Claude A. “Skip” Berry, Alex Boone, E. Britt Brockman, Todd Case, McKenna Dowell, David Figg, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Gosney, Janie Greer, Lance Lucas, Elizabeth McCoy, Hannah Myers, Karen Petrone, Paula Leach Pope, Frank Shoop, Zach Stacy, Hollie Swanson, Robert Vance, Elaine Wilson and Clark Williams. Jim Gray was absent.

Secretary Myers announced a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brockman stated that the minutes of the December 2, 2025, meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee McCoy moved approval and Trustee Figg seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

IV. Chair’s Report

Chair Brockman reported that there was one petition to address the Board since the last meeting, but it was not relevant to the agenda and was forwarded to the appropriate department.

Dr. Brockman then reported there were 25 consent agenda items, including:

- PR 2 Personnel Actions
- ACC 1 Execute Fiscal Year 2025-26 Audit Engagement Letter
- ASACR 1 Undergraduate Certificate: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- ASACR 2 Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Arts and Sciences
- ASACR 3 Academic Degree Recommendation: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- ASACR 4 Deletion of Certificate: College of Arts and Sciences
- ASACR 5 Undergraduate Certificate: College of Education
- ASACR 6 Undergraduate Certificate: Pigman College of Engineering
- ASACR 7 Change in Name of Center: College of Public Health

ASACR 8	Merger of Two Education Units: College of Education
FCR 1	Acceptance of Charitable Grant Commitment
FCR 2	Acceptance of Charitable Gift Commitment
FCR 3	Acceptance of Charitable Gift and Pledge
FCR 4	Acceptance of Charitable Gift
FCR 5	Acceptance of Charitable Grant Commitment
FCR 6	Resolution for Authorization, Issuance and Sale of General Receipts
FCR 7	Internal Loan
FCR 8	Approval to Acquire
FCR 9	Approval to Acquire
FCR 10	Improve UKHC Facilities
FCR 11	Improve Medical Facility 7 UKKD
FCR 12	Expand Improve Medical Facility 1 UKKD
FCR 13	Capital Construction Report
FCR 14	Patent Assignment Report
	UK HealthCare Medical Staff Privileges and Appointments

Chair Brockman asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Myers moved approval and Trustee Geoghegan seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

#### V. President's Report

President Capilouto reported on campus operations during Winter Storm Fern, noting that despite severe conditions the University maintained essential functions and prioritized safety. He stated that around-the-clock crews, multiple shifts and dozens of employees ensured caregivers and essential personnel could reach campus, including providing approximately 800 rides for healthcare workers. He reported that parking lots and sidewalks were repeatedly cleared and treated and that more than 400 tons of salt were deployed to maintain safe conditions. He emphasized that thousands of meals were prepared for students and employees and expressed gratitude for the resilience and commitment shown by staff in protecting students, patients and the University mission.

He stated that while weather forecasts and operational plans had to adjust rapidly, institutional priorities did not change. President Capilouto reported that the University remained focused on keeping people safe and healthy, prioritizing patient care, supporting students and returning to normal operations as quickly as possible. He noted that this experience served as a broader metaphor for the University's current environment, where the mission to advance Kentucky remains constant while strategies must remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances.

President Capilouto reported on his recent testimony before a House Committee regarding the University budget. He stated that discussions with legislators focused on accountability, the return on public investment and the relevance of University programs for the future. He explained that the University is pursuing service consolidation and operational efficiencies, such as centralized Informational Technology (IT), communications and shared services, to improve effectiveness, transparency and stewardship of resources while supporting continued growth.

He stated that the University must respond to a national demographic decline in traditional college-age students, a trend that has been underway since 2008. President Capilouto reported that despite these pressures, the University has resisted national enrollment trends due to the collective work of faculty and staff providing a high quality education that prepares students for lives of meaning and purpose. He emphasized the need to remain competitive and responsive in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

President Capilouto reported that the value and structure of a traditional college degree are being reconsidered nationally, particularly in light of labor market changes and automation. He stated that while long-term earnings data still favor college graduates, more recent data show rising unemployment among bachelor's degree holders and rapid change in occupations affected by artificial intelligence. He emphasized that these trends underscore the need for adaptability and continual skill development.

He stated that advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are occurring at an unprecedented pace and are already reshaping education, research and work. President Capilouto reported on University examples where AI is being used as an effective academic support tool and noted that students are increasingly aware of and adapting to these changes. He shared data showing significant growth in students pursuing certificates and credentials in addition to degrees, reflecting demand for stackable and flexible learning pathways.

President Capilouto reported that the University recently launched the Commonwealth's first bachelor's degree program in artificial intelligence through the Stan and Karen Pigman College of Engineering, with the inaugural class arriving in fall 2026. He stated that AI and machine learning specialists are projected to be among the most in-demand occupations in the coming years and emphasized the importance of equipping faculty, staff and students to use these tools effectively and ethically.

He stated that the University is among the first institutions to enter into a comprehensive partnership with Microsoft, extending across research, healthcare, teaching and service. President Capilouto reported that faculty and IT teams are collaborating with Microsoft to provide training, customize AI tools and expand opportunities through the Advancing Kentucky Together Network. He noted the recent launch of an AI literacy course for faculty and staff and upcoming campus-wide events focused on responsible and innovative use of AI.

President Capilouto reported that policymakers increasingly expect universities to demonstrate alignment with workforce needs in addition to enrollment and graduation outcomes. He stated that the University is organizing its efforts around preparing Kentucky's future workforce by ensuring students develop skills that lead to meaningful employment while also becoming ethical, critical-thinking and adaptable citizens.

He stated that in the coming weeks he will announce a campus-wide initiative focused on workforce and career development. President Capilouto reported that this initiative will emphasize cross-disciplinary collaboration, expanded career development opportunities for students and stronger alignment with emerging workforce demands, further

advancing the economy, health and well-being of the Commonwealth.

President Capilouto stated that the University must continue shifting its perspective to better meet the needs of students, communities and the Commonwealth as a whole. He reported examples demonstrating how students increasingly require education that spans multiple disciplines and colleges to prepare for rapidly evolving careers. He emphasized that while the University's purpose remains unchanged, the path forward must continue to adapt to ensure Kentucky's University remains a trusted partner for progress and a driver of the Commonwealth's future.

#### PR 3 Alumni Member Election

The President introduced PR 3 Alumni Member Election, which was the recommendation that the Board of Trustees accept the report of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees on the results of the election, authorized by the Alumni Association, be received and put to record, and that the Secretary be authorized to certify to the Governor the names of the three persons receiving the largest number of votes, from which list a successor to Paula Leach Pope, whose term expires June 30, 2026, will be appointed.

Chair Brockman thanked President Capilouto and asked for a motion to approve PR 3. Trustee Gosney moved approval and Trustee Lucas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

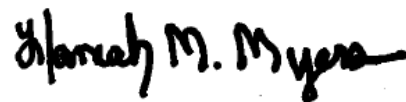
#### VI. Other Business

Chair Brockman asked if there was any further business to come before the Board.

#### VII. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hannah M. Myers  
Secretary