Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
University of Kentucky
Friday, April 24, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky met on Friday, April 24, 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 11:01 a.m. and asked Secretary Myers to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

The following members of the Board of Trustees were in attendance: Alex Boone, E. Britt Brockman, Todd Case, McKenna Dowell, David Figg, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Gosney, Jim Gray, 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. Claude A. “Skip” Berry attended via Zoom.

Secretary Myers announced a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brockman stated that the minutes of the February 20, 2026, meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Vance moved approval and Trustee Williams 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 30 consent agenda items, including:

PR 2	Personnel Actions
ASACR 1	Candidates for Degrees May 2026
ASACR 2	In Memoriam Degrees May 2026
ASACR 3	Candidates for Degrees April 2026 (Ft. Sam Houston)
ASACR 4	Deletion of Graduate Certificate: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
ASACR 5	Deletion of Certificate: College of Education
ASACR 6	Undergraduate Certificate: College of Social Work
ASACR 7	Graduate Certificate: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

ASACR 8	Academic Degree: College of Arts and Sciences
ASACR 9	Academic Degree: College of Fine Arts
ASACR 10	Honorary Degree Recipient
FCR 1	Acceptance of Charitable Grant
FCR 2	Acceptance of Charitable Gift
FCR 3	Acceptance of Charitable Grant
FCR 4	Acceptance of Charitable Grant
FCR 5	Amendment to Caudill Endowed Chair
FCR 6	Acceptance of Interim Financial Report
FCR 7	Budget Revisions
FCR 8	Tuition and Mandatory Fees
FCR 9	Lease Purchase Equipment
FCR 10	Approval of Lease
FCR 11	Improve Willard Education Science Bldg Capital Project
FCR 12	Construct Site/Civil Infrastructure
FCR 13	Construct/Improve Medical/Administrative Facility 2
FCR 14	Approval of Land Lease
FCR 15	Improve and Construct Utilities Capital Project
FCR 16	Improve Joe Craft Football Practice Facility Capital Project
FCR 17	Capital Construction Report
FCR 18	University Research Professorships

UK HealthCare Medical Staff Privileges and Appointments

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

V. President's Report

President Capilouto reported that following the meeting, the University would host a Founders Day luncheon commemorating the institution's 161st anniversary. He stated that Stan and Karen Pigman would receive the Founders Day Award, one of the University's highest honors, in recognition of their lasting impact on the University and the Commonwealth. He noted that their philanthropy has expanded educational opportunities for students throughout Eastern Kentucky and has made a profound difference in the lives of countless young people. Dr. Capilouto asked Stan and Karen Pigman to stand and be recognized; they were honored by a standing ovation from the Board and meeting attendees.

The President continued by reflecting on the significance of Founders Day as an opportunity to honor those whose vision, service and dedication helped build the University. He stated that the University remains committed to advancing the future while remembering the contributions of those who came before, including educators, researchers, healthcare professionals and public servants whose efforts continue to benefit Kentucky.

President Capilouto reported on the legacy of Justice John Marshall Harlan, known as the "Great Dissenter," and discussed the importance of principled leadership and thoughtful dissent. He stated that Harlan's views, once in the minority, later became foundational to important legal and social progress in the United States. He noted that the idea that "today's dissent might be tomorrow's truth" remains meaningful in discussions about leadership, scholarship and public service.

The President highlighted the Rosenberg College of Law's long history of educating leaders for the Commonwealth and recognized distinguished faculty and alumni who have advanced justice, public service and legal education. He stated that the College has played a critical role in preparing generations of lawyers and leaders and remains central to the University's mission.

President Capilouto reported on the search for a new dean of the Rosenberg College of Law. He stated that the Provost conducted a comprehensive and principled search process designed to ensure integrity, transparency and broad stakeholder participation. He emphasized that the process included opportunities for feedback and discussion and was conducted free from improper outside influence.

He announced the selection of Judge Greg Van Tatenhove as the next dean of the Rosenberg College of Law. He stated that Judge Van Tatenhove distinguished himself through his vision for the College, his commitment to students and faculty and his dedication to service and leadership. He noted that Judge Van Tatenhove is leaving a distinguished judicial career to lead the College during a period of significant opportunity and change.

President Capilouto reported that alumni leaders strongly support Judge Van Tatenhove's appointment and recognized representatives of the College's Visiting Committee who attended the meeting. He invited Chair of the Rosenberg College of Law Visiting Committee Charles "Buzz" English to provide comments regarding the dean selection process.

Mr. English stated that he participated in interviews with all finalists and believed Judge Van Tatenhove was the strongest candidate. He reported that the search process was open and inclusive and that committee members were provided opportunities to share feedback throughout the process. He stated that the Visiting Committee was unaware of any outside political influence affecting the selection and unanimously supported Judge Van Tatenhove's appointment.

He further stated that, based on his familiarity with American Bar Association (ABA) accreditation standards, he believed the appointment fully complied with applicable requirements. He expressed confidence in Judge Van Tatenhove's ability to lead the College of Law and affirmed the Visiting Committee's commitment to supporting the College's continued success and future growth.

President Capilouto thanked Mr. English and stated that the College of Law is at an important transition point requiring new leadership. He expressed confidence in the dean search process led by Provost DiPaola, describing it as thorough, principled and conducted with integrity. He affirmed his support for both the process and the selection of the new dean, noting that the appointment presents an opportunity to strengthen the College's future and advance its service to the Commonwealth.

Chair Brockman asked if there was any further discussion regarding PR 1 and recognized Trustee Williams.

Trustee Williams said he appreciated the time taken by Dr. DiPaola and President Capilouto to describe the process used in the recent dean selections. He stated that the ABA's interpretation of Standard 203 requires good cause to appoint a law school dean over the objection of a substantial majority of the faculty, and expressed concern that the Board does not know the level of faculty sentiment against which good cause was measured in this case. He stated that, without that knowledge, his concern remains and noted that the governing regulations did not allow the matter to be brought to a vote of the Board. He stated that the issue highlights a need to review and improve the governing regulations to strengthen shared governance, and he asked the Chair, the President and the Board to prioritize that review in advance of the June meeting.

Chair Brockman thanked Trustee Williams and turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Case to preside over the discussion. Vice Chair Case recognized Trustee Gray for comments.

Trustee Gray stated that he respects his fellow Board members, the administration, the President, the Governor, elected officials and Judge Van Tatenhove, and acknowledged their good intentions and contributions.

He stated that his forthcoming motion is grounded in upholding University standards, including adherence to the original job posting, ABA Standard 203, and principles of shared governance. Trustee Gray said these standards, while sometimes cumbersome, are essential to institutional stability, credibility and progress, and warned that once weakened they are difficult to restore.

He stated that the matter also raises concerns about transparency and the Board's role in oversight and governance, noting that prior communications suggested the dean appointment would be subject to Board approval but that Trustees were later informed no vote would occur. Trustee Gray said he therefore moved that a collaborative group of University stakeholders examine, adjust and revise where appropriate the governing regulations to allow for a vote on these kinds of appointments going forward, and to report back to the board at its next meeting.

Vice Chair Case called for a second; Chair Brockman seconded the motion. Vice Chair Case asked if there was any discussion and called on Trustee Vance for comments.

Trustee Vance said he is a proud graduate of the Rosenberg College of Law and expressed a deep personal connection to the University, noting the significant impact the College of Law has had on his education and career. He stated that he has supported the University through philanthropic contributions to the law building and scholarships.

He stated that he has closely examined the dean selection process and fully supports it, emphasizing that it has been in place for several years, involves many participants and requires a lengthy and detailed review. Trustee Vance said the process is comprehensive and inclusive, and he expressed confidence in its integrity and outcomes.

Vice Chair Case thanked Trustee Vance and recognized Trustee Swanson for comments.

Trustee Swanson stated as a representative of the faculty, she wanted to express appreciation for the sentiments that were expressed by Trustee Gray.

Vice Chair Case thanked Trustee Swanson and recognized Trustee Lucas for comments.

Trustee Lucas said he is a graduate of the Rosenberg College of Law and expressed a strong personal connection to the University's law school, emphasizing his commitment to ensuring the University does the right thing in its leadership decisions.

He stated that he found Provost DiPaola's presentation on the dean selection process to be thorough and acknowledged that recent changes to the governing regulations appropriately granted authority to the President, with the process being followed as intended. Trustee Lucas said the selected candidate may appear unconventional, which contributed to some controversy, but he believes the choice is sound and commended the President and staff for conducting a comprehensive and thoughtful process.

Vice Chair Case thanked Trustee Lucas and asked for any additional discussion, hearing none he called for a vote. The motion passed with 19 votes in favor and one against by Trustee Vance. He then returned the gavel back to Chair Brockman to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Brockman said he reflected on his long-standing connection to the University, recalling his service as Student Trustee and expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside past and present leaders who shared a commitment to advancing the University's mission. He stated that his service has been one of the greatest honors of his life and emphasized a deep sense of responsibility to give back to the University and the Commonwealth.

He stated that the University must respond to criticism with reflection and a willingness to improve, rather than defensiveness, and acknowledged comments made by the Governor as an opportunity to examine leadership and decision-making. Chair Brockman said the core issue is not a single appointment but whether the Board and University leadership are willing to ask difficult questions and strive for continuous improvement.

Chair Brockman said the Board has demonstrated thoughtful governance through rigorous discussion, particularly in reviewing the law dean selection process, and emphasized that while disagreement exists, the Board has remained respectful and engaged. He stated that the Board must now unite to support the new dean and continue advancing the University's mission in service to the Commonwealth.

He stated that the University has achieved significant progress under current leadership, citing growth in infrastructure investment, enrollment, graduation rates, research activity and healthcare impact, and emphasized that such progress reflects sustained commitment rather than complacency. Chair Brockman said the Board serves as fiduciaries entrusted with advancing the University and the State, and reaffirmed confidence in continued momentum and improvement driven by accountability and shared purpose.

Chair Brockman then called on President Capilouto to introduce PR 3.

PR 3 Royal Blue Health Board Appointment

The President introduced PR 3 Appointment to Royal Blue Health LLC Board of Governors, which was the recomendation that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of April Russell Perry as a Governor of the Royal Blue Health LLC Board of Governors.

Chair Brockman thanked President Capilouto and asked for a motion to approve PR 3. Trustee Berry 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 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah M. Myers

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Secretary