

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Christian County Extension Office, Hopkinsville KY
Friday, October 17, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky met on Friday, October 17, 2025, in the Christian County Extension Office, Hopkinsville KY.

I. Call to Order

E. Britt Brockman, chair of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. (CT) and asked Assistant Secretary Thro 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, David Figg, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Gosney, Jim Gray, Janie Greer, Lance Lucas, Elizabeth McCoy, Hannah Myers, Karen Petrone, Paula Leach Pope, Frank Shoop, Hollie Swanson, Robert Vance and Elaine Wilson. Claude A. "Skip" Berry attended the meeting via Zoom. McKenna Dowell, Zach Stacy and Clark Williams were absent.

Secretary Thro announced a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brockman stated that the minutes of the September 11 and 12, 2025, meetings had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Wilson moved approval and Trustee Geoghegan seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Brockman reported there had been 33 petitions to address the Board but the subject matter was not related to the Board's meeting agenda, so they were denied. Additionally he reported that the Executive Committee met and reviewed the President's Constituent Evaluation and the Board's Self-Evaluation was presented.

Dr. Brockman then introduced CR 1 Advancing Kentucky Together and pointed out that the recommendation was based on the feedback the Board provided to the President following the breakout sessions from the previous day's Retreat.

Before formally discussing and voting on the recommendation, he read the recommendation.

CR 1 Advancing Kentucky Together – Partner of Choice

The University of Kentucky's vision and mission is to advance Kentucky in every way that improves the quality of life for the people of the Commonwealth. Ultimately, the single greatest challenge to that goal is ensuring a healthy state. Health in this context means physical health — the treatment of disease and the prevention of it. But it also, importantly, means well-being, quality of life and economic vitality by growing and sustaining a skilled workforce. These broad definitions of health are interconnected and, in so many ways, inextricably linked. To advance Kentucky, its university — the University of, for and with Kentucky — must work together with, and in support of, partners to advance the health in the Commonwealth.

Further, when we address all those dimensions of health for Kentucky, we are addressing them for the country. A central part of our mission as a leading public research university is to create and disseminate knowledge through education, research, service and care. Local answers, in an important sense, can mean global solutions.

Lowering cancer rates in our state — through prevention, treatment and clinical trials of novel drugs and therapeutics — translates to a greater capacity to lower them everywhere. New drugs that arrest the advance of dementia or Alzheimer's in our state herald the promise of progress in every corner of the country. Partnering and supporting strong community hospitals and providers will open access to more affordable, outstanding care, creating a national model for delivery.

A highly skilled and prepared workforce — more students enrolled and more of them graduating on time and without significant debt — raises labor participation rates throughout the state, prepares more people for lives of meaning and purpose and will stimulate population growth.

A healthier Kentucky contributes to the economic advance of the country.

We have an opportunity to become the university that is doing more than any other institution in the country for the state that it serves.

We should seize it. We must.

To that end, the President is directed to take the next critical steps in our mission to advance Kentucky by focusing the institution's capacity and strategic efforts on becoming the university that — along with partners — does more than anyone in the country to improve the health of the state that it serves.

The following principles are the first steps in that effort and the Board directs the President and the university to move strategically and quickly in implementing the following measures:

- Develop a specific growth strategy aimed at responding to the health-related workforce needs and shortages in Kentucky. The growth strategy should include capacity needs — in terms of talent and infrastructure — to support these efforts.
- Formally launch and expand statewide the Advancing Kentucky Together Network. This is the evolution of our affiliation model, applied not only to providers but to communities — their holistic health, workforce and education needs.
- Formalize, launch and expand deeper connections with communities, the University, UK HealthCare and UK's Cooperative Extension Service. Extension offices across the state can enhance and expand engagement in the delivery of broad-based health services. But we know we need to communicate better about what they do and what they can do — in and with communities.
- Develop the plan for a second Healthy Kentucky Research Building facility along with the talent necessary to support it. UK's research capacity must expand if we are to advance Kentucky's health. That will require the recruitment and retention of researchers who have attracted external funding and can compete for additional resources that will drive discovery. It will also necessitate a new research facility — co-located with the institution's other health-related research centers — that will support research growth.

The Board of Trustees directs the President to move quickly to develop plans in the areas listed above and report regularly to the Board on expected milestones and areas of progress.

Chair Brockman recognized President Capilouto for comments before asking the Board to vote on the recommendation.

V. President's Report

President Capilouto reported that he was grateful for the previous day's activities and stated that he was deeply moved by the work of colleagues across the State. He expressed appreciation for the Board's feedback and guidance in support of the mission to advance Kentucky in everything the University does.

He stated that the resolution presented was an updated version of the charge given by the Board last year. He affirmed the University's commitment to working with partners through a statewide network to become the institution that contributes more to its namesake than any other in the nation. He emphasized the emerging opportunities driven by advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the need to embrace its promise while guarding against its risks for the State, the campus community, offices across the Commonwealth and the people who rely on the University.

President Capilouto reported that the University recently convened the President's Council, a group of faculty, staff and students created through the University's shared governance model. He shared that the Council met and discussed AI and its impact on daily life, including ethical considerations and practical applications across campus. He referenced comments from historian Tracy Campbell, who placed technological change in historical context and reminded participants that new technologies often generate fear and doubt.

Dr. Capilouto stated that despite uncertainties, one conclusion was clear: inaction is not an option. He affirmed that the University of Kentucky seeks to be a partner of choice in AI and technology development now and in the future. The President described a partner of choice as an institution that approaches work with humility and generosity, listens closely and strives to be the place people turn to as they work together for a healthier, wealthier and wiser Commonwealth.

President Capilouto reported that advancing the overall health of Kentucky requires leveraging the University's capacities in research, education, service and care in collaboration with others. He stated that Kentucky must be pushed to lead and that in the realm of Artificial Intelligence, the University has the right people at the right place at the most important time.

Dr. Capilouto stated that CR1 captures the progress made under the Board's direction, identifies work still to be done and outlines key responsibilities and strategies that will guide future efforts. He emphasized that becoming the partner of choice for AI in Kentucky is the next step in fulfilling the charge to do more than any institution in the country to advance the State the University was created to serve.

Chair Brockman thanked President Capilouto and asked for a motion to approve CR 1. Trustee Lucas moved approval and Trustee Myers seconded the motion. Chair Brockman recognized Trustee Swanson for comments.

Dr. Swanson stated, "As we continue down this road I try not to be a luddite and embrace progress, but I think what is important is that we define progress, that we do not confuse intelligence with wisdom. With that in mind, as we think about education as we are adopting AI, our education is at the forefront of enhancing critical thinking, reasoning skills, decision making and the ability to interact with others."

Chair Brockman thanked Trustee Swanson and stated, "Before we vote, I would briefly like to offer a few comments that I hope represent where we are as a board. As I referenced yesterday morning, I think in the span of 24 hours we have seen the remarkable reach and meaning of this place — from the heart-rending comments of a daughter grieving her mother, but thankful for the healing hope that Sanders-Brown provides, to the expanse of all that Cooperative Extension does in every corner and community of the Commonwealth. For more than 100 years, they have sought to do what was needed in service to Kentucky."

Dr. Brockman continued, “That remains our north star today — to advance this state in all that we do. And over the past few years, we have continually challenged President Capilouto and the campus to accelerate their efforts to advance this state — its health, its economy and its education. We have stepped up. We are proud of the progress made and the promises that have been kept. But we know — as always — we are not done. And the resolution before you speak to both the promise and peril before us now — the opportunity to accelerate by harnessing the massive potential associated with Artificial Intelligence and other rapidly evolving technologies.”

Chair Brockman continued, “The potential is massive — to close health disparities, to expand economic opportunities to make more accessible the education and open doors to lifelong careers and possibilities that only we provide. The questions associated with these technologies are, indeed, profound. It is a challenge and opportunity that requires this institution — Kentucky’s university — to step up. And that is what, in this resolution, we are charging our president and campus to do: to be the partner of choice across this state in the development of AI and associated technologies. We can be a leader here. Or we can be left behind. We must be a leader. UK must play an essential role in making that a reality, and that is what this resolution sets out to help ensure.”

Chair Brockman asked for a motion to approve CR1. The motion carried without dissent.

VI. Nominating Committee Report

Chair Brockman recognized Nominating Committee Chair Trustee Shoop for his report.

Trustee Shoop reported that the Nominating Committee met on October 8, 2025, to discuss the slate of officers and members elected to the Executive Committee. Trustee Shoop submitted the following nominations for the following offices:

For Chair – Britt Brockman
For Vice Chair – Todd Case
For Secretary – Hannah Myers
For Assistant Secretary - William Thro, General Counsel

Chair Brockman stated they would proceed with the election of officers of the Board, and then the election of members of the Executive Committee. Since he was honored to have been nominated for the position of chair by the members of the Nominating Committee, he considered it a conflict of interest and he asked Trustee Shoop to preside over the election for the position of chair of the Board. After the election of the chair, the new chair will preside over the remaining elections and the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee Shoop stated the Nominating Committee had nominated Britt Brockman for Chair. He asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no discussion, the nominations were closed and called for the vote for Trustee Britt Brockman as chair, and it passed without dissent. Trustee Shoop congratulated Chair Brockman and passed the gavel to him to preside over the remaining elections.

Chair Brockman thanked Trustee Shoop and proceeded with the election of Vice Chair.

Chair Brockman stated that the Nominating Committee had nominated Todd Case for vice chair. He asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no discussion, the nominations were closed and called for the vote for Trustee Todd Case as vice chair, and it passed without dissent. Chair Brockman congratulated Vice Chair Case.

Chair Brockman stated that the Nominating Committee had nominated Hannah Myers for secretary. He asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no discussion, the nominations were closed and called for the vote for Trustee Hannah Myers as secretary, and it passed without dissent. Chair Brockman congratulated Secretary Myers.

Chair Brockman stated that the Nominating Committee had nominated General Counsel Bill Thro for Assistant Secretary as has been the custom before this Board. He asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no discussion, the nominations were closed and called for the vote for William Thro as assistant secretary, and it passed without dissent. Chair Brockman congratulated Mr. Thro.

Chair Brockman asked Nominating Chair Shoop to present the slate for at-large members.

Trustee Shoop reported that per Governing Regulations II, states that the Executive Committee consists of the Chair, Vice Chair and three Trustee members elected by the Board of Trustees. The Secretary is an ex officio non-voting member. By virtue of their newly elected offices, Chair Brockman and Vice Chair Case are members of the Executive Committee. Therefore, the Nominating Committee submitted the following three nominations for the at-large members: Jim Gray, Elizabeth McCoy and Bob Vance.

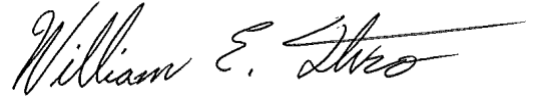
Chair Brockman explained that the election of the members of the Executive Committee would proceed in like fashion to the election of the officers of the Board. He stated that the Nominating Committee nominated Jim Gray, Elizabeth McCoy and Bob Vance as the at-large members of the Executive Committee. He asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing no discussion, the nominations were closed. Chair Brockman called for the vote, and it passed without dissent. Chair Brockman congratulated Trustees Gray, McCoy and Vance.

Trustee Shoop thanked the Board for their recommendations and applauded the nominating process.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Brockman asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m. (CT)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William E. Thro". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William E. Thro
Assistant Secretary