Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
University of Kentucky
Friday, September 12, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky met on Friday, September 12, 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 1:32 p.m. and asked Assistant Secretary Thro to call the roll.

II. Roll Call

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

Secretary Thro announced a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brockman stated that the minutes of the June 13, 2025, meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Vance moved approval and Trustee Pope seconded the motion; the motion carried without dissent.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Brockman reported that there were two petitions to address the Board since their last meeting, but the subject matter was not related to the Board's agenda, and the petitions were denied and sent to the appropriate departments for follow up.

Next, Chair Brockman reported there were no changes to the survey questions from the Board for the Board of Trustees Self-evaluation discussed in June. He stated that Ms. Hardwick would send the survey to the Board in the coming week and the results will be presented during the October meeting.

Similarly, Dr. Brockman reported there were no changes from the Board for the President's Constituent Survey questions discussed during the June meeting. That survey will be distributed, and the results will be presented in October, as well.

Chair Brockman reported there were 22 consent agenda items, including:

PR 2	Personnel Actions
ASACR 1	Deletion of Certificate: College of Fine Arts
ASACR 2	Deletion of Certificate: College of Fine Arts
ASACR 3	Deletion of Certificate: College of Nursing
ASACR 4	Deletion of Certificate: College of Nursing
ASACR 5	Academic Degree: Gatton College of Business and Economics
ASACR 6	Undergrad Certificate: Gatton College of Business and Economics
ASACR 7	Academic Degree: Pigman College of Engineering
FCR 1	Acceptance of Charitable Grant
FCR 2	Acceptance of Charitable Gift Commitment
FCR 3	Authorization of Negotiated Disposition of Personal Property
FCR 4	Approval of Disposal and Demolition
FCR 5	Approval to Acquire
FCR 6	Approval to Acquire
FCR 7	Approval of Improvements to Leased Space
FCR 8	Improve Center for Applied Energy Research Facilities
FCR 9	Improve UK HealthCare Facilities
FCR 10	Construct/Improve Medical/Administration Facility 3
FCR 11	Construct/Improve Athletic Facility 2
FCR 12	Capital Construction Report
FCR 13	Patent Report

UK HealthCare Medical Staff Privileges and Appointments

Chair Brockman explained the reasoning behind the use of the consent agenda for Board meetings, pointing out that early on multiple meetings were occurring at once and the Committees would need to discuss recommendations from their Committees in detail before the Board voted on them. Now, the Committee meetings do not conflict and typically all Board members have already heard the items being considered and for that reason, the Board began using the consent process.

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 Figg moved approval; Trustee Lucas seconded the motion and the consent agenda passed without dissent.

Chair Brockman introduced President Capilouto for his report.

V. <u>President's Report</u>

President Capilouto reported that each year, 8,000 flags are placed in front of the Main Building by the UK Pershing Rifles program to honor those lost on September 11, 2001. Beginning at 8:46 a.m., the names of victims are read aloud over eight and a half hours. He stated this solemn service serves as a communal reminder that the University must never forget, with each flag representing a precious life and personal story.

He continued by honoring the life and legacy of Jim Stuckert, a devoted alumnus, leader and philanthropist. He described Mr. Stuckert's career achievements and service to the University, including his tenure as chair of the Finance Committee and national chair of UK's $1 billion capital campaign. He noted Mr. Stuckert's guiding principles for success — putting clients first, maintaining integrity, investing in people and doing the right thing — as meaningful lessons for business, the University and life.

President Capilouto then reflected on the individuality of each student's story at the University. He referenced a photograph of the incoming first-year class of more than 7,000 students — representing every Kentucky county, all 50 states and more than 100 countries — as a testament to UK's growing reputation and mission. He emphasized that each student embodies a unique story and that the University's role is to help them find their voice and purpose.

He shared examples of students like Jackson from Bullitt County, who chose UK for its strong academic support; Emma from Greenup County, who plans to serve her hometown community as a physician assistant; Abby from Savannah, pursuing a graduate degree in education; and Eugene, a Resident Advisor fostering community in residence halls. He stated these stories exemplify UK's mission to help students and, through them, advance Kentucky.

President Capilouto reported record enrollment growth for fall 2025, with 7,012 first-year students — the first time UK has exceeded 7,000 — and total enrollment reaching nearly 39,000. More than 4,000 first-year students are from Kentucky, and nearly 1,900 are first-generation students. He also noted increased on-campus housing and growing enrollment in health-related fields, especially the College of Public Health, which rose by more than 18 percent since fall 2024.

He stated that UK's graduation rates also reached record levels, with preliminary six-year and five-year rates near 72 percent and a four-year rate of approximately 60 percent — as high as the six-year rate 15 years ago. He credited these gains to early college credit opportunities, strong faculty and robust student support systems.

He concluded by reaffirming UK's founding mission to advance Kentucky. Unlike many universities that highlight institutional pride, he emphasized that UK's focus is on representing and serving the Commonwealth. He reiterated that each student — each light in the annual class photo — symbolizes the University's collective purpose: as UK grows and succeeds, so does Kentucky.

<u>PR 3 A University Policy on Institutional Neutrality</u>

President Capilouto introduced PR 3, a recommendation that the Board adopt as policy of the University a position of institutional neutrality as prescribed in House Bill 4 of the 2025 regular session of the General Assembly. In accordance with House Bill 4 the University's policy with respect to institutional neutrality:

- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's political or social viewpoint and promotes intellectual diversity within the institute and;

- Ensures that an amended policy is prominently published in the University's student and faculty handbooks, as well as on a publicly accessible webpage of the institution's website.

The President provided background information concerning the recomendation stating that in August 2024, he had communicated with the UK community several policy changes related to issues surrounding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The policy changes resulted from conversations with dozens of members of the campus community, as well as with state legislators, regarding concerns around DEI.

Among those policy changes was the creation and implementation of a University-wide policy of institutional neutrality. That policy was outlined in a message to the campus community on August 20, 2024, in which President Capilouto stated:

We will be impartial facilitators as an institution of broad perspectives. When we take a position, as an institution, on a partisan or political issue, we threaten the ability of everyone in our community to feel a sense of belonging and an opportunity to join the debate. Institutional policies will make clear that we will be impartial on current events, reserving official statements for issues that directly and broadly impact our community.

Websites will be free of political positions as a way of ensuring impartiality. We will eliminate statements that imply that the institution or unit has an official view on a current event.

In addition, a policy paper — the Institutional Statements Policy — was published on the UK website.

That policy, in part, states:

The university does not take official positions on or issue public statements about societal issues and events that do not directly impact the mission or function of the university. The university may issue public statements about internal issues or events at the institution as well as external issues and events that directly impact the university's operations or ability to pursue its mission.

Finally, the ability for the President of the institution to prescribe such policies is described in the University's governing regulations, which in *Governing Regulation I.A.3* state:

As the University is complex, it is necessary for the Board to delegate administrative authority over day-to-day operations to the President. In exercising administrative authority, the President is accountable to the Board. The Board may remove the President at any time in accordance with the President's contract.

The President explained to eliminate potential confusion and to ensure clarity around the University's intent with respect to this issue, the Board of Trustees is moving to formally endorse and adopt the policy of institutional neutrality, in accordance with House

Bill 4 and as outlined and implemented by President Capilouto in August 2024.

Chair Brockman asked for a motion to approve PR 3. Trustee Case moved approval, and Trustee Geoghegan seconded the motion.

Chair Brockman recognized Trustee Williams, who remarked that he understands the sentimate and objective of the recomendation but by way of a statement, a policy of neutrality does present a conundrum. Trustee Williams expressed, “We have a neutrality policy that is required by state law in an environment where neutral circumstances do not exist. So the threat is that the neutrality policy will cause a drift into some greater discrimination. What I am looking for, not necessarily in this meeting today, but that we do have a sentiment as a board, hopefully, and as leadership, through our President, to see how we can manage and oversee this policy in a way where we do not drift into more discrimination.”

Chair Brockman thanked Trustee Williams and recognized Trustee Swanson for comments. Dr. Swanson stated, “I work with many at the intersection of science and healthcare. Unfortunately, many of these societal issues that we are trying to address have become politicized. Thus, I share the concern of how this policy will be interpreted and implemented.”

Chair Brockman thanked Trustee Swanson and asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing none, Chair Brockman called for a vote. PR 3 passed with 15 in favor and four abstensions from Trustees Dowell, Petrone, Swanson and Williams.

<u>PR 4 Notice of Civil Rights and Institutional Policy Information</u>

President Capilouto introduced PR 4, a recommendation that the Board formally acknowledge the University’s compliance with Senate Joint Resolution 55 (SJR 55), signed by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear in April 2025, which directs institutions of higher education to provide students with annual information about their rights under federal civil rights law and applicable institutional policies.

The President provided background information concerning the recomendation stating that SJR 55 affirms the responsibilities of Kentucky’s public colleges and universities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and requires institutions to ensure students are informed of their protections. In accordance with this directive, the University of Kentucky will provide annual communication to all students beginning September 8, 2025, and continuing through at least 2028.

The communication will include information about the following rights:

- Freedom from discrimination: Students may not be discriminated against in any program or activity receiving federal funds based on race, color or national origin. This protection explicitly includes antisemitic discrimination when based on race, color or national origin, consistent with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition.

- Protection against harassment: The University must address and prevent racial or national origin harassment that creates a hostile environment.

- Equal access to programs and resources: All students should have equal access to benefits and services, regardless of race, color or national origin.

- Protection against retaliation: Students are protected from retaliation for filing a complaint, testifying or assisting in an investigation under Title VI.

The notice also provides instructions for filing reports with the Office of Equal Opportunity and references protections available under Kentucky law (KRS 344.450), which allows individuals injured by discrimination to seek relief and damages. The University's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment, applicable to both students and employees, is also highlighted.

Chair Brockman asked for a motion to approve PR 4. Trustee Figg moved approval, and Trustee Dowell seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried without dissent.

VI. <u>Other Business</u>

<u>2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule</u>

Chair Brockman then introduced the 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Williams motioned to approve; Trustee Pope seconded the motion, and the 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule passed without dissent.

VII. <u>Adjournment</u>

Chair Brockman asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Thro

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Assistant Secretary