

Minutes of the University Health Care Committee
University of Kentucky Board of Trustees
Friday, April 24, 2026

The University Health Care Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky (UK) met on February 19, 2026, in the Gatton Student Center, Harris Ballroom.

A. Meeting Opened

Bob Vance, chair of the University Health Care Committee called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the University Health Care Committee were in attendance: Skip Berry, Alex Boone, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Baker Gosney and Bob Vance; Community Advisory members Luther Deaton and Barbara Young.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Vance stated that the minutes of the February 19, 2026 meeting had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Boone moved approval and Trustee Gosney seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent. (See meeting minutes on the Board of Trustees website, www.uky.edu/Trustees, under “Agenda”.)

D. EVPHA Report

Preview 2030 Strategic Plan

Provost and Co-EVPHA, Robert DiPaola introduced UK HealthCare’s Strategy 2030 planning process and emphasized the organization’s commitment to actively implementing, monitoring and evaluating its strategic plans. He stated that UK HealthCare regularly reviews strategic priorities, tracks performance metrics and seeks stakeholder input to ensure continued alignment with organizational goals. Dr. DiPaola then introduced Rob Edwards, vice president and chief strategy and government affairs officer and Dorian Herceg, associate vice president for enterprise strategy and organizational performance, to provide an update on the strategic planning process.

Mr. Edwards reviewed the historical foundation of UK HealthCare’s strategic planning efforts, noting that the organization’s strategy remains grounded in the University of Kentucky’s mission of advancing Kentucky through improved health outcomes, educational attainment and economic development. He explained that the current strategic planning effort represents the fifth successive strategic plan and continues the long-standing focus on serving Kentucky’s most complex patients through advanced specialty and subspecialty care. Mr. Edwards highlighted UK HealthCare’s investments

in clinical talent, infrastructure, transplant services, oncology, neurosurgery, pediatric specialties and statewide partnerships. He also discussed the importance of collaborations with rural healthcare providers and noted that UK King's Daughters and UK St. Claire are participating in the strategic planning process as members of the University healthcare system for the first time.

Mr. Herceg outlined the stakeholder engagement process used to inform Strategy 2030, including surveys of UK HealthCare staff, physicians and providers; feedback from healthcare partners across Kentucky; and input from clinical leaders and committees. He reported that stakeholders identified increased access to primary care, preventive services, pediatric subspecialties, adult specialty care, ambulatory services and improved care coordination as key priorities. Mr. Herceg highlighted ongoing investments in healthcare infrastructure, including the Cancer and Advanced Ambulatory Building and the Hamburg East Medical Office Building, as well as efforts to strengthen service lines and workforce development. He noted that future planning will focus on expanding access, improving quality, leveraging innovation and artificial intelligence, preparing for healthcare payment reforms and strengthening partnerships throughout the Commonwealth, particularly in Eastern Kentucky. The presenters indicated that additional stakeholder input will be gathered over the coming months and that a comprehensive strategic plan update will be presented to the Board in June.

During discussion, Trustee Barbara Young inquired about physician recruitment efforts, particularly in primary care. Mr. Herceg responded that UK HealthCare continues to actively recruit physicians and clinical staff to support expanding access throughout the region. He noted that ambulatory sites previously approved by the Board have been successfully opened in Hamburg and Frankfort, with additional facilities planned for Richmond and Newtown Pike later this year. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to ensure adequate staffing and continued growth of services.

Becoming Golisano Children's at UK

Dr. DiPaola then introduced Dr. Scotty Day, vice president for children's health and recognized his leadership in securing a transformational \$50 million grant from the Golisano Foundation for Kentucky Children's Hospital. Dr. DiPaola noted that Dr. Day was selected to speak on behalf of grant recipients at the foundation's announcement event, reflecting the significance of UK HealthCare's accomplishments in children's healthcare.

Dr. Day provided an overview of Kentucky Children's Hospital and reflected on the many leaders, faculty, staff and community partners whose efforts have contributed to its growth and success. He reported that the hospital currently serves more than 85,000 children annually, provides approximately 172,000 outpatient visits each year and operates a 90-bed Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. He highlighted the hospital's statewide network of clinical partnerships and outreach programs that support pediatric care throughout Kentucky and neighboring regions. Dr. Day also discussed ongoing efforts to recruit pediatric specialists and noted that more than 120 pediatric specialists

have joined the organization during the past five years despite significant national workforce shortages.

The committee viewed a patient-family testimonial video illustrating the impact of specialized pediatric services and the opportunities that will be created through the Golisano Foundation gift. Dr. Day described the grant application and selection process and credited university leadership, frontline staff and community supporters for helping secure the award. He explained that the gift will support expanded access to pediatric care, increased specialty services, enhanced behavioral and mental health resources and broader support for children and families throughout Kentucky.

Dr. Day further discussed participation in the Golisano Children's Hospital Alliance, a collaborative network of children's hospitals that share expertise, research initiatives, workforce development programs and quality improvement efforts. He highlighted upcoming opportunities resulting from the alliance, including child life workforce initiatives, pediatric sleep and safe sleep programs, collaborative research efforts and enhanced recruitment opportunities. Dr. Day concluded by emphasizing the importance of continued investment in workforce development, specialty recruitment, education and statewide partnerships to ensure that Kentucky's children have access to high-quality care close to home.

DanceBlue

DanceBlue leaders Josie Bailey and Natalie Boone addressed the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees to highlight the impact of DanceBlue, a year-long student-led philanthropy that supports the DanceBlue Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic. Bailey explained that the organization was inspired by the wish of former patient Jarrett Minear, who wanted to "do something good" for the clinic. What began as one child's vision has grown into one of the nation's largest dance marathons, engaging approximately 1,000 student dancers, more than 200 volunteers and a committee of about 200 student leaders. Boone noted that DanceBlue extends far beyond its signature 24-hour marathon, with fundraising events, community partnerships and more than 75 mini marathons held in schools across Kentucky.

The presenters emphasized that DanceBlue's success is measured not only by dollars raised but also by the relationships formed with patients and families. Volunteers serve weekly in the clinic, providing companionship, activities and emotional support for children undergoing treatment. Boone described how these experiences shape students' perspectives and leadership, while Bailey highlighted the joy volunteers bring to families facing difficult circumstances. The organization's fundraising efforts reached a record-breaking \$2.46 million this year and have generated more than \$27 million over its 21-year history. Funds support pediatric cancer research, family assistance programs such as meal vouchers and lodging and essential clinic staff. Both speakers concluded that DanceBlue's mission is centered on creating hope, joy and meaningful connections, demonstrating the impact that students, staff, alumni and communities can have when united in support of Kentucky's children and families.

Following a presentation on DanceBlue, university leaders expressed gratitude for the students' passion, commitment and service before transitioning to a review of operational and financial performance for the first three quarters of fiscal year 2026

FYTD26 March Operational and Financial Report

Craig Collins, senior vice president, chief financial officer and Timothy Slocum, senior vice president, chief operations officer reported strong progress in improving efficiency and access to care across the UK HealthCare enterprise. Average length of stay declined to 6.86 days in March, representing one of the most efficient months in recent years. Patient acuity remained high, as reflected by a case mix index of 2.30 year-to-date, while discharge volumes remained largely consistent with budget despite weather-related impacts earlier in the year. Physician and advanced practice provider productivity continued to grow, with work relative value units increasing more than 4% over the previous year. Outpatient surgical cases and ambulatory visits also demonstrated significant growth, with more than 1.2 million ambulatory visits recorded through March, representing a 6.5% increase year over year. Emergency department volumes surpassed 100,000 visits and were more than 2% higher than the previous year, further reflecting increasing demand for services across the Commonwealth.

Financial leaders highlighted the strong relationship between operational growth and financial performance across the healthcare enterprise, including facilities in Lexington, Ashland and Morehead. The Lexington-based health system generated \$464.9M of net income March year to date exceeding budget by \$274.2M driven largely by patient volume growth, philanthropy and outpatient pharmacy operations. Combined across the enterprise, healthcare operations were above budget and substantially higher than the prior year—demonstrating continued growth, operational efficiency, and the health system's expanding role in supporting both patient care and the broader mission of the University of Kentucky.

E. Privileges and Appointments

Executive Chief Medical Officer Christopher DeSimone presented the list of providers from the UKHC Medical Staff for privileges and appointments. Trustee Boone made a motion to approve the list. Trustee Gosney seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

F. Other Business and Adjournment

Chair Vance called for new or other business that needed to be brought before the University Health Care Committee or questions for the presenters. Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Bays Donald
University Health Care Committee Secretary