

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

APRIL 3, 2020

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA

AUBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Telephone conference instructions to join by phone:

(312) 626-6799

or

(346) 248-7799

1. Approval of the February 7, 2020 Reconvened Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the March 26, 2020 Special Called Telephone Meeting Minutes
3. Resolution Authorizing North Alabama Horticulture Substation Conveyance (Dan King)
4. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Revenue Bonds (Kelli Shomaker)
5. Resolution - Awarding of Degrees for Spring Semester 2020
6. President Gogue's Update Regarding COVID-19

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE
AUBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020, AT 9:00 A.M.
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL

As *President Pro Tempore* of the Auburn University Board of Trustees, Mr. Wayne Smith convened the Special Called Meeting via telephone conference call at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 3, 2020, for review of five action items and an update from President Gogue and senior level administration regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. *President Pro Tempore* Smith welcomed members of the public and the news media who joined in and offered reminders as follows: First, the dial-in number used by the public is listen-only so that members of the Board may both hear and be heard for our discussion. The *President Pro Tempore* then called upon Board Secretary Jon Waggoner to call the roll. The following named members of the Board of Trustees were deemed to be in attendance via telephone conference: Lloyd Austin, Mike DeMaioribus, Bob Dumas, Raymond Harbert, Elizabeth Huntley, Gaines Lanier, Charles McCrary, Sarah Newton, James Pratt, Jimmy Rane, Quentin Riggins, B.T. Roberts, Clark Sahlie, Jimmy Sanford, and Wayne Smith.

Governor Kay Ivey, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, was absent from the meeting. The individuals listed above represent all persons recognized as members of the Board of Trustees of Auburn University at the time of the meeting. Also on the conference call with the Board were Michael Baginski, Faculty Advisor for Auburn University; Aaron Cobb, Faculty Advisor for AUM; Ada Ruth Huntley, Auburn University Student Government Association President; and Ciara Freeman, AUM Student Government Association President. Jon Waggoner attended as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Other persons in attendance via telephone conference included the following: Jay Gogue, President; Bill Hardgrave, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Carl Stockton, Chancellor of AUM; Jamie Hammer, General Counsel; Bobby Woodard, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs; Kelli Shomaker, Vice President for Business and Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Dan King, Associate Vice President for Facilities; Paul Patterson, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station; Gary Lemme, Extension Director; and Mark Stirling, Director of Auburn University Real Estate.

The following items were presented and voted on for approval:

Approval of the February 7, 2020 Reconvened Meeting Minutes

President Pro Tempore Smith asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 7, 2020 Reconvened Meeting. A motion was received from Trustee Dumas. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sahlie, and the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WHEREAS, copies of the minutes of the Reconvened Meeting on Friday, February 7, 2020 have been distributed to all members of this Board of Trustees for review; and

WHEREAS, the members have reviewed the minutes and determined that they constitute a true and correct recitation of the business of the respective meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees that the minutes of its February 7, 2020 Reconvened Meeting are hereby approved as distributed.

Approval of the March 26, 2020 Special Called Telephone Meeting Minutes

President Pro Tempore Smith then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2020 Special Called Telephone Meeting. A motion was received from Trustee Riggins. The motion was seconded by Trustee Huntley, and the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WHEREAS, copies of the minutes of the Special Called Telephone Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2020 have been distributed to all members of this Board of Trustees for review; and

WHEREAS, the members have reviewed the minutes and determined that they constitute a true and correct recitation of the business of the respective meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees that the minutes of its March 26, 2020 Telephone Conference Meeting are hereby approved as distributed.

Resolution Authorizing North Alabama Horticulture Substation Conveyance

Chairperson DeMaoribus indicated there was a recommendation and proposed resolution authorizing a conveyance of real property at the North Alabama Horticulture Substation in Cullman, Alabama. He then asked for Mr. King to discuss the item. Following a discussion, Chairperson DeMaoribus moved for adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Pratt, and the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION

NORTH ALABAMA HORTICULTURE SUBSTATION CONVEYANCE

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) requests that Auburn University convey approximately 0.60 acres of University land to facilitate an ALDOT project in Cullman, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, ALDOT is planning to begin a \$25.0 million dollar project on Highway 157 during the Summer of 2020 to improve traffic capacity, traffic safety, and drainage; and

WHEREAS, as part of the North Alabama Horticulture Substation in Cullman, Alabama, the University owns property adjacent to the existing Highway 157 Right of Way, and the ALDOT project would encroach onto 0.60 acres of the University's land as shown in Attachments (1) and (2); and

WHEREAS, the conveyance of this property to ALDOT will benefit the University and the general public, in that the proposed traffic improvements will provide safer roadways for Alabama residents; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Board of Trustees Policy, 'D-7 Real Estate Sale and Lease Policy,' one MAI appraisal was obtained and the assessed value of the 0.6 acre parcel is \$12,000; and

WHEREAS, the transfers of real property between state departments and state universities are exempt from state bidding requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Auburn University that Jay Gogue, President, or such person as may be acting as President, be and the same is hereby authorized and empowered to convey the 0.6 acres of land at the North Alabama Horticulture Substation described in Attachments (1) and (2) to the Alabama Department of Transportation for the price of \$12,000, to facilitate their Highway 157 improvement project. All documents consummating the conveyance shall be reviewed as to form by legal counsel for Auburn University.



Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Revenue Bonds

Chairperson Harbert reported on a request to approve a special process authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds and called upon Ms. Shomaker for a discussion of the item. Ms. Shomaker assured everyone that Auburn University's financial position remains strong. She explained that the transition to online instruction and operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has had little impact on the University's finances thus far. However, the pandemic has caused incredible volatility in the market over the past month which has impacted rates both positively and negatively. It has also interrupted the daily lives of our students, faculty, and staff. Therefore, Ms. Shomaker presented that it seems prudent to prepare for either (a) a potential long period of interruption that utilizes unknown amounts of financial resources or (b) borrowing conditions so favorable that the welfare of students, faculty, and staff could be greatly enhanced.

The normal course of action by Auburn University requires that the full Board of Trustees vote to authorize the institution to borrow money. Ms. Shomaker explained that the resolution before the Board authorizes certain Designated Board Members (3 individuals selected by committee chair or board office) to approve the issuance of bonds and certain related transactions and expenses. The special procedure will help ensure that the University is poised and ready, if necessary or advisable, to borrow money without the time requirements of returning to the entire Board for approval. Ms. Shomaker informed everyone that the proposed resolution would grant the Designated Board Members with approval authority from the date of the resolution, throughout the period of time where normal operations of the University are suspended and for six months thereafter. She concluded that the proposed resolution would allow for up to \$300MM of borrowing, a net interest cost not to exceed 4%, and a maturity for no longer than 100 years. She then asked for approval of the resolution.

Chairperson Harbert moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Dumas, and the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REVNUUE BONDS OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees (herein called the "Board") of AUBURN UNIVERSITY (herein called the "University") as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The Board has determined and hereby finds and declares that the following facts are true and correct:

(a) It is necessary, advisable, in the interest of the University and in the public interest that the University issue its revenue bonds to finance certain capital improvements, additions and renovations to the Auburn main campus or on such site as would support the educational mission of Auburn University (the "Improvements"), all as more fully described in Section 3 below.

(b) The University will realize financial benefits in the form of favorable interest rates from the issuance of the bonds herein authorized and the use of the proceeds thereof to finance the acquisition and construction of the Improvements.

Section 2. Authorization of Bonds. For the purpose of financing the cost of the Improvements, there are hereby authorized to be issued by the University up to \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of revenue bonds of the University. The said bonds shall be issued under the terms, conditions and provisions set out in the General Fee Revenue Trust Indenture dated as of June 1, 1985 between the University and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee (herein called the "Trustee"), as heretofore supplemented, and as further supplemented by a Twenty-Third Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture (or such subsequent supplemental indenture(s) as may be appropriate if the Bonds are issued in multiple series at different times, each being referred to herein as a "Supplemental General Fee Indenture") provided for in Section 6 of this resolution (the original General Fee Revenue Trust Indenture, as so supplemented being herein referred to as the "Indenture"). The bonds herein authorized (the "Bonds") may be issued in one or more series (1) if and to the extent necessary and appropriate to distinguish between bonds the interest on which is excludable from gross income for purposes of federal income taxation and bonds the interest on which is taxable for purposes of federal income taxation and/or (2) if the bonds are issued at different times.

All the provisions of the Indenture, as applicable to the Bonds, are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution as if set out at length herein.

Section 3. Bonds to be Issued as Additional Parity Bonds; Special Findings. The Bonds shall be issued as additional parity bonds under Article VIII of the Indenture.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 8.2(b) of the Indenture, the Board hereby finds and declares as follows:

(a) the University is not now in default under the Indenture and no such default is imminent;

(b) Bonds the interest on which is excludable from gross income for purposes of federal income taxation shall be designated "General Fee Revenue Bonds, Series 2020-C" or such other series designation as shall be appropriate at the time such Bonds are issued. If it is necessary and appropriate to issue all or a portion of the Bonds as bonds the interest on which is taxable for purposes of federal income taxation, such bonds shall be designated "Taxable General Fee Revenue Bonds, Series 2020-C" or such other series designation as shall be appropriate at the time such Bonds are issued;

(c) the persons to whom the Bonds are to be delivered are set forth in Sections 7 and 9 hereof;

(d) all of the Bonds are to be issued by sale in accordance with Section 7 hereof;

(e) the sale price of the Bonds is set forth in Section 7 hereof;

(f) the only additional parity bonds that have previously been issued by the University under the General Fee Revenue Indenture and that are currently outstanding are the General Fee Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, issued under the Fourteenth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of December 1, 2009; the General Fee Revenue Bonds, Series 2011-A (in part), issued under the Fifteenth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of May 1, 2011; the General Fee Revenue Bonds, Series 2012 (in part), issued under the Sixteenth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of March 1, 2012; the General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2014-A, issued under the Seventeenth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of July 1, 2014; the General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-A, issued under the Eighteenth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of March 1, 2015; the General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-B, issued under the Nineteenth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of September 1, 2015; the General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2016-A, issued under the Twentieth Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of August 1, 2016; the General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2018-A, issued under the Twenty-First Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of June 1, 2018, and the General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2020-A and Taxable General Fee Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2020-B, issued under the Twenty-Second Supplemental General Fee Revenue Indenture dated as of March 1, 2020

(g) the Capital Improvements (as such term is defined in the Indenture) to be financed with proceeds of the Bonds (referred to herein as the "Improvements") shall include the acquisition, construction, renovation or

equipping of facilities to be located on the Auburn main campus or on such site as would support the educational mission of Auburn University, including, without limitation, any real and personal property necessary or desirable in connection therewith. The specific facilities to be financed from the proceeds of the Bonds shall be approved by the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO, the President, and the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Board as evidenced by one or more certificates executed by said persons approving such uses of the proceeds of the Bonds.

The Trustee is hereby requested to authenticate and deliver the Bonds to the purchasers specified in Sections 7 and 9 hereof upon payment of the purchase price designated therein.

Section 4. Source of Payment of the Bonds. The principal of and the interest on the Bonds shall be payable from (i) the gross revenues from those general tuition fees levied against students at the Auburn, Alabama campus and the Montgomery, Alabama campus of the University that are more particularly described and referred to as "General Fees" in the Indenture; (ii) the gross revenues derived by the University from the operation of its housing and dining facilities located on the Auburn campus and on the Montgomery campus that are more particularly described and referred to as "Housing and Dining Revenues" in the Indenture; (iii) the gross revenues derived by the University from the operation of its athletics programs that are more particularly described and referred to as "Athletic Fee Revenues" in the Indenture; and (iv) the several student fees levied against students at the Auburn campus and the Montgomery campus that are more particularly described and referred to as the "Pledged Student Fees" in the Indenture. The said General Fees, the said Housing and Dining revenues, the said Athletic Fee Revenues, and the said Pledged Student Fees are collectively referred to herein and in the Indenture as the "Pledged Revenues."

Nothing contained in this resolution, in the Bonds, in the Indenture, or in the supplemental indenture hereinafter authorized shall be deemed to impose any obligations on the University to pay the principal of or the interest on the Bonds except from the Pledged Revenues. Neither the Bonds, nor the pledge or any agreement contained in the Indenture, in the said supplemental indenture or in this resolution shall be or constitute an obligation of any nature whatsoever of the State of Alabama, and neither the Bonds nor any obligation arising from the aforesaid pledge or agreements shall be payable out of any moneys appropriated to the University by the State of Alabama. The agreements, covenants or representations contained in this resolution, in the Bonds, in the Indenture, and in the said supplemental indenture do not and shall never constitute or give rise to any personal or pecuniary liability or charge against the general credit of the University, and in the event of a breach of any such agreement, covenant or representation, no personal or pecuniary liability or charge payable directly or indirectly from the general revenues of the University shall arise therefrom. Nothing contained in this section shall, however, relieve the University from the observance and performance of the several covenants and agreements on its part herein contained.

Section 5. Bonds Payable at Par. All remittances of principal of and interest on the Bonds to the holders thereof shall be made at par without any deduction for exchange or other costs, fees or expenses. The bank or banks at which the Bonds shall at any time be payable shall

be considered by acceptance of their duties hereunder to have agreed that they will make or cause to be made remittances of principal of and interest on the Bonds, out of the moneys provided for that purpose, in bankable funds at par without any deduction for exchange or other cost, fees or expenses. The University will pay to such bank or banks all reasonable charges made and expenses incurred by them in making such remittances in bankable funds at par.

Section 6. Authorization of Supplemental Indenture. The Board does hereby authorize and direct the President of the University to execute and deliver, for and in the name and behalf of the University, to the Trustee, such Supplemental General Fee Indentures as may be necessary and appropriate in connection with the issuance of the Bonds in substantially the form presented to the meeting at which this resolution is adopted and to be attached as Exhibit I to the minutes of said meeting (which form is hereby adopted in all respects as if set out in full in this resolution), with such changes, deletions and additions as may be approved by the President consistent with the terms of this resolution, and does hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of the Board to affix to such Supplemental General Fee Indentures the official seal of the University and to attest the same.

Section 7. Sale of the Bonds. Subject to the conditions, approvals and adjustments contained or described in Section 11 of this resolution, the Bonds shall be sold and awarded either (1) by means of a public sale to an underwriting group (herein called the "Underwriters") comprised of such firms as shall be approved by the Board Designees (as defined herein) or (2) by private placement to a bank or other purchaser as shall be approved by the Board Designees. Any Bonds sold to the Underwriters shall be sold at and for a purchase price at least equal to 99% of the principal amount thereof, plus any original issue premium and less any original issue discount as may be approved under Section 11 hereof, plus accrued interest, if any, on such Bonds from their date to the date of delivery thereof. Any Bonds sold to the Underwriters shall be sold pursuant to the terms of a Bond Purchase Contract (the "Bond Purchase Contract") to be entered into between the Underwriters and the University in form and substance acceptable to the President and the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University. The Board does hereby authorize and direct the President and the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University, or either of them, subject to the approval of the Board Designees, to execute and deliver any Bond Purchase Contract, for and on behalf of the University, to the Underwriters, and the execution of any such Bond Purchase Contract by either of them shall conclusively evidence the approval of the form and substance of such Contract by both the President and the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO. Any Bonds sold by private placement shall be sold at and for a purchase price approved by the Board Designees. The Board does hereby authorize and direct the President and the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University, or either of them, to execute and deliver, for and on behalf of the University, any documents or agreements necessary or appropriate in connection with any sale private sale of Bonds.

Section 8. Authorization of Official Statement. For any Bonds sold by public sale through Underwriters, the Board does hereby authorize and direct the Underwriters to distribute, for and in the name and on behalf of the University, a Preliminary Official Statement with respect to the Bonds in form and substance acceptable to the President and the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University. The Board does hereby further authorize and direct the President or the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University to execute and

deliver, for and on behalf of the University, a final Official Statement for the Bonds, substantially in the form of the Preliminary Official Statement but with such changes, additions and completions as may be necessary or appropriate to reflect the final terms of the Bonds, and does hereby declare that the Official Statement so executed by the President or the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University shall be the Official Statement of the University with respect to the Bonds.

Section 9. Execution and Delivery of Bonds. The Board does hereby authorize and direct the President of the University to execute the Bonds, in the name and behalf of the University, by causing a facsimile of his signature to be imprinted thereon, and does hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of the Board to cause a facsimile of the official seal of the University to be imprinted on the Bonds and to attest the same by causing a facsimile of his signature to be imprinted thereon, all in the manner provided in the Indenture, and the President of the University is hereby authorized and directed to deliver the Bonds, subsequent to their execution as provided herein to the Trustee, and to direct the Trustee to authenticate the Bonds and to deliver them to the Underwriters or other purchaser(s), as appropriate, upon payment to the University of the purchase price therefor.

Section 10. Application of Proceeds. The entire proceeds derived by the University from the sale of the Bonds shall be paid to the Trustee under the Indenture. The Trustee is thereupon authorized and directed to apply and disburse such moneys for the purposes and in the order specified in the Supplemental General Fee Indenture.

Section 11. Authorization to Approve Certain Matters. The Board has determined that in view of the favorable interest rates currently available in the market for bonds and the uncertainty regarding the future impact of COVID-19, it is in the best interest of the University to authorize the issuance of the Bonds in order to take advantage of any opportunity that may arise for the University to better fulfil its mission through the issuance of debt. The Board acknowledges, however, that as of the date of this meeting, the Bonds have not yet been sold and the documents approved by the Board in this resolution have not yet been finalized. Therefore, in order to permit the University to take advantage of any opportunity that may arise for the University to better fulfil its mission through the issuance of debt and to permit the Bonds to be issued, sold and delivered promptly and efficiently without the need for a subsequent meeting of the Board, the Board does hereby authorize the *President Pro Tempore*, the Chair of the Finance Committee, and the Chair of the Executive Committee (the "Board Designees"):

(a) to approve the issuance of Bonds pursuant to the authorization in this resolution;

(b) to approve the final principal amounts of each series of Bonds to be issued and the designation of the Bonds as tax-exempt or taxable; provided, the aggregate principal amount of Bonds issued under this Resolution shall not exceed the principal amount authorized in Section 2 above;

(c) to approve the sale or pricing details of the Bonds, including the purchase price of the Bonds, the interest rates to be borne by the Bonds, the principal maturities thereof, the redemption and prepayment provisions thereof (if

any), and any original issue discount or premium with respect to the Bonds; provided, the net interest cost of any series of Bonds shall not exceed 4.00% and the final maturity date of the Bonds of any series shall be a date which is no more than 100 years following the date of issue (or the maximum period permitted by law if less than 100 years);

(d) to approve the negotiated compensation of the Underwriters in any public sale of Bonds and to approve any negotiated fees and expenses charged by any bank or other purchaser of Bonds in any private sale;

(e) to approve the expenses of issuing the Bonds;

(f) to arrange for bond insurance, letters of credit, standby bond purchase agreements or other forms of credit enhancement or liquidity support for the Bonds if and to the extent deemed to be appropriate and to the benefit of the University; and

(g) to take such other steps and to execute and approve such documents as may be necessary or appropriate to cause the Bonds to be issued, sold and delivered consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the Indenture.

In addition to the terms and conditions set forth in this resolution, the approval of the issuance of any Bonds hereunder by the Board Designees shall adhere strictly to all provisions of the Debt Policy of the Board. The approval by the Board Designees of the items listed above, and any other approvals required by the Board Designees under this resolution, shall be conclusively evidenced by one or more certificates signed by each of the Board Designees and delivered at or before the time of issuance of the Bonds.

Section 12. Resolution Constitutes Contract. The provisions of this resolution shall constitute a contract between the University and each holder of the Bonds.

Section 13. Severability. The various provisions of this resolution are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision hereof shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any other portion of this resolution.

Section 14. Designation of Bond Counsel. The Board hereby approves and confirms the retention of Balch & Bingham LLP as bond counsel and disclosure counsel to the University and PFM Financial Advisors LLC as financial advisor to the University.

Section 15. General Authorization. The President of the University, the Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO of the University, the Secretary of the Board and each of the Board Designees are hereby authorized to execute such further certifications or other documents and to take such other action as any of them may deem appropriate or necessary for the consummation of the matters covered by this resolution, to the end that the Bonds may be executed and delivered as promptly as practicable.

Section 16. Termination of Bond Issuing Authority Under this Resolution. The special authority granted to the Board Designees in this resolution shall be preserved from the date this resolution is adopted, throughout the period of time where normal operations of the University are suspended and for six months thereafter. The authorization to issue Bonds under this resolution shall terminate six months following the reinstatement of normal University operations with class instruction delivered in-person and remotely.

Exhibit I

Supplemental General Fee Indenture

Resolution - Awarding of Degrees for Spring Semester 2020

President Pro Tempore Smith called upon Chairperson McCrary to present the final action item on the agenda, Awarding of Degrees for Spring Semester 2020. Chairperson McCrary reported that even though students will not participate in commencement ceremonies until a later date (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), it is still necessary that the Board authorize the awarding of degrees before May, so that the graduates will have their degrees if/when they start their jobs or pursue advanced degrees in the summer. He also informed everyone that students who graduate are normally mailed degrees anyway, so these diplomas will be distributed according to the normal process. Chairperson McCrary moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Newton, and the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION

AWARDING OF DEGREES

WHEREAS, Auburn University confers appropriate degrees upon those individuals who have completed requirements previously approved by this Board of Trustees and stated in University Catalogs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That all degrees to be awarded by the faculty of Auburn University and Auburn University at Montgomery at the end of Spring Semester 2020, complying with the requirements heretofore established by the Board of Trustees, be and the same are hereby approved.
2. That a list of the degrees awarded be filed in that a list of the degrees awarded be maintained in the records of the University and hereby made an official part of this resolution and of these minutes.

President Pro Tempore Smith then called upon President Gogue for information updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and recent events on campus, at AUM, and across the State.

President Gogue's Update Regarding COVID-19

Dr. Gogue welcomed everyone and indicated there would be four presentations, including himself; Dean Paul Patterson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Gary Lemme, Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System; and Dr. Carl Stockton, Chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery. Each would provide a short update concerning his respective area/division.

Update from Paul Patterson, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station

Dean Patterson reported that the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES) is operating at near normal levels. He indicated that the AAES has made the decision to keep all experimental operations moving forward during this period of adjusted operations caused by COVID-19. He detailed that failing to proceed with AAES' experimental work would result in the loss of one year's worth of experimental data and the failure to perform on contracted research work. He explained that spring is a very busy time of year for agricultural researchers, and that AAES is currently planting new experiments that will proceed through early June. As for faculty travel, Dean Patterson indicated that faculty members who need to visit an outlying unit or other research sites to collect data, oversee the installation of a new experiment, or to apply experimental treatments are being given an exception to the current travel restriction for Auburn University faculty and staff. He explained that requests for exceptions to the travel restrictions are submitted by faculty members for review by their department heads, the dean's office, and the Provost with the Provost approving all exceptions. He detailed that the faculty members must demonstrate that their travel plans will minimize their own and their research assistants' potential exposure to the coronavirus. He announced that, to date, over 60 travel exceptions have been reviewed and approved.

Dean Patterson then reported on the outlying unit operations of AAES. He reported that there are 164 staff employees in the Experiment Station. He explained that nearly all the employees at the outlying units are busy with spring experimental operations. He detailed that there are cases where some staff members are having to juggle additional childcare responsibilities given the closure of schools and daycare facilities. Dean Patterson indicated that AAES has discussed with the directors of the outlying units the importance of social distancing in their daily operations. He reported that most stations have less than 10 employees, and that some stations are utilizing alternate work schedules to minimize interactions amongst employees. He expressed that the unit facing the largest challenge in operations is the Plant Science Unit, the greenhouse complex on the Auburn University central campus. He explained that this unit has three staff members and typically relies on about 10 student workers; however, most of these student workers have left campus. Dean Patterson discussed scheduled experiments for this spring that included 140 experiments at the outlying units. In his final discussion, Dean Patterson detailed contingency plans in case of further restrictions on work activities due to the coronavirus. He indicated that they are prepared to provide maintenance level support of the experiments. He also indicated contingency plans in place to make certain all animals on the experiment stations are attended to properly to ensure their wellbeing.

Update from Gary Lemme, Extension Director

Dr. Lemme reported that, for two weeks, county extension offices have been closed; however, the personnel have still been active. He explained that all face-to-face meetings were cancelled or have shifted to virtual formats, and all 4-H meetings and state contests scheduled for the spring were canceled. He indicated that the 4-H Center also cancelled all youth and public events. Dr. Lemme detailed that initially they were concerned that these actions would hurt our ability to serve the people of Alabama, but the opposite occurred. He reported that the AES staff have applied incredible creativity and have worked hard during this challenging and unprecedented time. He gave a snapshot as follows: On the ACES website, there is a dedicated tab for COVID-19 information featuring over 50 articles and videos in various program areas. He announced that human science agents posted twenty-five articles addressing small business, consumer, and family issues. He reported that currently they are experiencing 7,100 web visitors per day to the website with 26,146 people viewing the coronavirus webpage between March 9-26, 2020. He concluded his report by indicating that a "Daily Briefing" is being distributed to extension staff and volunteers, media, agricultural, and community leaders with nearly 2,000 subscribers.

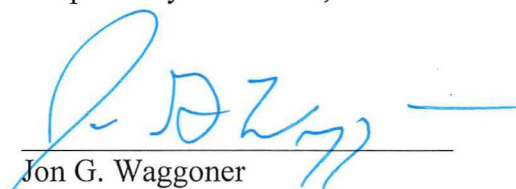
Update from Carl Stockton, Chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Stockton began his report by indicating that Auburn University at Montgomery has aligned many of its processes to Auburn University, including beginning remote instruction on March 12, 2020. Dr. Stockton reported that AUM has prioritized the safety of its students, staff and faculty, and that there are a number of protocols in place should a person test positive for COVID-19. He expressed that AUM faculty and staff have handled the current situation extremely well. He also indicated that there are still a few students on campus in residence halls—250 students out of the 1,250 on-campus residents— with many being international students who could not return home. Chancellor Stockton also indicated that both the study abroad program and university travel have been suspended, and many staff members are now working remotely. He reported that AUM will deliver 100% of classroom instruction remotely through the summer. Finally, he announced that AUM has moved its commencement date to August 15, 2020. Dr. Stockton finalized his report by thanking AUM students, faculty, and staff for being understanding and helpful during this time.

President Gogue concluded his report.

President Pro Tempore Smith thanked everyone for their informative updates and announced that the Board will recess until the next specially called telephone meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon G. Waggoner
Secretary to the Board of Trustees