June 10, 2017

To: The Tuskegee University Community

From: John E. Page, Chairman

Subject: Summer Meeting of the Board of Trustees / Retreat

The Tuskegee University Board of Trustees (“Board”) held its Summer Meeting/Retreat in Montgomery, Alabama, on June 8-10, 2017. Held at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, the Summer Meeting/Retreat hosted members of the Board of Trustees and the university’s Executive Council.

Prior to the beginning of the Summer Meeting, on June 8, the Board introduced Dr. Charlotte Morris as incoming interim president and Dr. Tejinder Sara as incoming provost at a town hall held in the Tuskegee University Chapel. Both distinguished academicians will lead the university as the Board completes its search for the university’s eighth president.

Montgomery’s Mayor Todd Strange and Trustee Hon. Charles Price, retired Montgomery County Circuit Judge, also hosted members of the Board and the university’s leadership team at a reception held at the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. Lt. General Steven L. Kwast, the commander and president of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base was in attendance and discussed potential partnerships between Tuskegee and Air University.

The following are a summary of the discussions and/or actions taken during the Board’s Summer Meeting/Retreat:

1. Discussed the pending presidential search. Proposals from several executive search firms have been received.

2. Received an update from the University leadership team regarding the SACSCOC warning status and the 2018 reaffirmation. (The university was notified after the board meeting that the warning status had been lifted).

3. Focused on the TU organization structure, particularly the administrative functions and enhancements in the university’s research and innovation efforts.

4. Received updates on the Fall 2017 enrollment projections, which increased over last year’s numbers, and improvements/conditions of the University’s residence hall facilities.

5. The University continues to be prudent in managing its financial resources. Long-term debt has decreased $5.9 million since the end of the previous fiscal year. In addition, the University generated more of an operating surplus in the first nine months of the fiscal year.
than what was budgeted for the entire fiscal year. The operating surplus for the same period was approximately $9.3 million.

6. The Board hosted a new-member orientation for the five new trustees, whose terms began in June. The new trustees who participated in the orientation were Sheena Harris, Jerome Russell, Tamika Tremaglio, Art Tipton and Barron Witherspoon (TU’85). The orientation included a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of trustees, a tour of campus, and lunch with Board leadership.

7. UPDATE: Henry Wesley Davis, III (TU’81) and Sylvester Hester were appointed to the Board in June 2017 by Governor Kay Ivey.

8. Met with Governor Ivey and discussed Tuskegee taking the lead in a workforce development program for the state of Alabama.

JEP