



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To: The Tuskegee University Community

From: Norma Clayton, Chair
Lily D. McNair, Ph.D., President

Date: September 25, 2019

Subject: Fall 2019 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Tuskegee University Board of Trustees held its fall meeting on the Tuskegee University campus Sept. 19-21, 2019 — its first meeting of the 2019-20 academic year. Board Chair Norma Clayton presided over her first meeting in her newly appointed role, and Amos Landrum and Dr. William Ndi participated in their first meeting as the student and faculty trustees, respectively.

The weekend began with a dinner Thursday evening hosted by President McNair. In addition to the trustees, the dinner included the president's senior leadership team and university deans. Following dinner, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Dr. Shaik Jeelani gave a presentation on the university's research portfolio.

On Friday, trustees participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Tuskegee Civil Rights and Historical Marker Trail. Funded by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, the trail highlights individuals, groups, and sites of notable significance during the civil rights era. Trustees also toured portions of the campus, focusing primarily on ongoing and recently completed capital improvement projects. The university's Facilities and Capital Improvements team provided updates on the campus' underground steam system, central boiler system, and other infrastructure needs requiring attention.

Also on Friday, the Board held its committee meetings and received reports from university administrators.

The board officially convened for its fall meeting Saturday morning, and the following summarizes discussions/actions taken during the meeting:

1. President McNair reported on significant activities since the board's June meeting/retreat. The highlights focused on the recent *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, campus safety and security, and the university's 2020-25 Strategic Plan.
 - a. In the 2019 *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, Tuskegee University jumped an impressive seven spots to No. 8 nationally among all HBCUs. The university also

ranked 25th among all southern regional universities — universities that offer a broad range of baccalaureate degrees and master's degrees, and few doctoral degrees.

- b. President McNair discussed efforts to improve the overall campus security and safety. The Tuskegee University Police Department has initiated active shooter training with all university departments and residence halls. Following those training sessions, a campus-wide shooter drill will be conducted to identify potential vulnerabilities with our communications and emergency action plans.
 - c. President McNair updated trustees on the development of the 2020-25 Strategic Plan and a timeline for completion. The final draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the Board for its approval at the Summer Meeting/Retreat in June 2020.
2. The Finance Subcommittee on Investments approved the re-allocation of the university's endowment portfolio based on recommendations from our investment advisors, Prime Buchholz & Associates. The value of the endowment as of August 31, 2019, was \$126.1 million.
3. The Board approved the revised preliminary FY20 budget of \$124.9 million and endowment payout rates of 4.5% and 5.0% from the general and grant endowments, respectively.
4. The Board approved the recommendations of the Finance Committee to restructure the enrollment fee and housing security deposit paid by students, and to change the housing fee to a non-refundable room reservation of \$100 per semester for students requesting housing. Previously, the \$450 housing security deposit was refundable at the end of a student's matriculation.
5. The Board approved the recommendation of the Finance Subcommittee on Facilities to proceed with the following capital projects:
 - a. College of Veterinary Medicine Student Parking Lot and Necropsy Drainage Improvements budgeted at \$507,000.
 - b. College of Veterinary Medicine Junior Dog Surgery Renovation Project budgeted at \$440,000.
6. The Board approved the recommendation of the Educational Policies Committee to offer the following non-thesis master's degrees: Biology, Chemistry, Integrative Public Policy and Development, and Veterinary Science.
7. The Board ratified the election of Clinton Timothy Branner II, class of 1990, as the new alumni trustee. As a result of the recently revised alumni trustee selection process, Trustee Branner's election by alumni will result in his service as the trustee for a three-year term, effective immediately.