



## TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MEMORANDUM

To: The Tuskegee University Community

From: John E. Page, Chairman  
Tuskegee University Board of Trustees

Subject: Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees-Spring 2017

The Tuskegee University Board of Trustees held its Annual Meeting on the campus of Tuskegee University on March 16-18, 2017 to address the business of the university. The board had an opportunity to have lunch with the students in Tompkins Hall and visit directly with them regarding their collegiate experience at Tuskegee. Additionally, as we begin to focus on research and innovation, the board viewed presentations on the university's latest research and patent portfolio.

Specifically, they had the pleasure of viewing great presentations featuring updates on research and initiatives from the School of Architecture and the College of Agriculture. The board's leadership also had an opportunity to meet with the staff as part of Staff Appreciation Week. Several concerns were raised and are being addressed by the board and university administration, chief of which is to continually improve housing and housing conditions. Committees of the board met on March 17, and the full board met on March 18. The following are a summation of the major discussions and/or actions taken:

1. Received the report of the president and his vice-presidents regarding the university's warning status with SACSCOC. The final report will be submitted to the accrediting agency on May 1, 2017. Throughout this process, the university has worked with numerous recommended SACSCOC consultants to ensure the report is comprehensively complete and sufficient to remove the university's warning status.

2. A preliminary budget for FY 2018 was approved. Among the highlights are the university's reinstatement of the retirement benefits match at the rate of up to 3%. Last year, the board temporarily suspended the program with the commitment to reinstate the matching program at a later date. This budget reflects a fulfillment of that pledge. Further details will be provided by the Office of Human Resources.
3. The university remains in fiscally sound health and is operating with a surplus. In turn, the university has paid and continues to pay down a significant amount of long term debt. In the last two years that amount has exceeded 10% of TU's existing long term debt. Note: In late 2016, the university conferred with the U.S. Department of Education regarding a refinance of its debt but has not proceeded as both the Department of Education and the White House administration was in transition.
4. The board adopted a Campus Master Plan which reflects the University's goals with its physical structure including campus housing and academic support buildings.
5. Discussed a future reorganization of the university's administration organizational structure. These changes will ensure proper allocation of duties and authorities throughout the university.
6. The board met with its endowment investment team. The endowment has grown from \$113M to approximately \$120M due to favorable market conditions and rebalancing of investments.
7. Approval of a Red Meat Processing Plant to be financed through funding from the USDA.
8. Approval of revisions to the Faculty Handbook. These revisions include the granting of tenure being subject to board approval.
9. Enrollment continues to improve. Currently, there are 2,399 undergraduate students, 251 graduate students, and 258 students enrolled in the vet school for a total of 2,908 students.
10. The university continues to have the following senior level positions open with posted announcements: CFO, Controller, and Vice President for Advancement and Development. There are also searches for permanent deans for the College of Business, School of Education, and the School for Nursing and Allied Health. These search efforts are guided by a reputable executive search firm retained by Tuskegee University.
11. The board unanimously re-elected following individuals as officers of the board. John E. Page was re-elected Chairman of the Board. Norma B. Clayton, Erick W. Harris, and Floyd Griffin were each re-elected First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively.

12. Trustees Kevin Green, Floyd Griffin, Karl Minter, and Chereece Warner were each re-elected to another term on the board. Trustees Felker W. Ward, Jr., and Willene Johnson both stepped down from the board after several years of faithful service. In recognition of his years of great service to the university, Felker W. Ward, Jr., was named Trustee Emeritus. Additionally, Trustee Andy Hornsby concluded his service as a state appointed board member. Future information as to the new state appointed trustees will be released at a later date.
13. The board elected three new trustees during the meeting. E. Christopher Johnson, Jr., H. Jerome Russell, Jr., and Barron M. Witherspoon, Sr., were each elected to serve on the board. More detailed bios can be found the board website.

The summer meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held June 8-10, 2017 in Montgomery, Alabama.