

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama held a special meeting by video conference on Friday, February 11, 2022. President pro tempore W. Stancil Starnes chaired the meeting. Mark D. Foley, Jr., served as Secretary.

On roll call, the following Trustees were present:

The Honorable Harris V. Morrissette, Trustee from
the First Congressional District;

The Honorable Marietta M. Urquhart, Trustee from
the First Congressional District;

The Honorable W. Davis Malone III, Trustee from
the Second Congressional District;

The Honorable Kenneth L. Vandervoort, M.D., Trustee from
the Third Congressional District;

The Honorable James W. Wilson, III, Trustee from
the Third Congressional District;

The Honorable Evelyn VanSant Mauldin, Trustee from
the Fourth Congressional District;

The Honorable Scott M. Phelps, Trustee from
the Fourth Congressional District;

The Honorable Ronald W. Gray, Trustee from
the Fifth Congressional District;

The Honorable William Britt Sexton, Trustee from
the Fifth Congressional District;

The Honorable Vanessa Leonard, Trustee from
the Sixth Congressional District;

The Honorable W. Stancil Starnes, President pro tempore and Trustee
from the Sixth Congressional District;

The Honorable Karen P. Brooks, Trustee from
the Seventh Congressional District;

The Honorable Barbara Humphrey, Trustee from
the Seventh Congressional District;

The Honorable Kenneth Simon, Trustee from
the Seventh Congressional District

The meeting was also attended by: Chancellor Finis E. St John IV; Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Dr. Dana S. Keith; General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor Sid Trant; Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Tonjanita Johnson; Director of System Communications Lynn Cole; UA President Dr. Stuart R. Bell; UA Chief Administrative Officer Chad Tindol; UA Vice President for Community Affairs Dr. Samory Pruitt; UA Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dr. Christine Taylor; and UA Chief University Counsel Robin Jones. The Honorable Mike Brock, Trustee from the Second Congressional District, was unable to attend.

Pro tem Starnes stated that the meeting was called in accordance with Section 16-47-32 of the Code of Alabama and pursuant to a written application, with which he concurred, from Trustees Leonard, Humphrey, and Morrissette that read as follows:

November 3, 2021

W. Stancil Starnes
500 University Blvd. E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

President Pro Tempore:

Pursuant to Article II, Section II of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, we request a virtual meeting on Friday, February 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. to consider the following items:

- Consideration of Resolution Amending the Name of Lucy-Graves Hall at UA

Respectfully,

The Honorable Vanessa Leonard, Trustee from the Sixth Congressional District
The Honorable Barbara Humphrey, Trustee from the Seventh Congressional District
The Honorable Harris V. Morrissette, Trustee from the First Congressional District

cc: Chancellor Finis E. St. John IV

Pro tem Starnes said notice of the special meeting was sent to each member of the Board.

Director of System Communications Lynn Cole introduced *ABC 33/40*; *WBRC*; Johnny Diaz with *The New York Times*; Grace Schepis with *The Crimson White*; Brian Lyman with the *Montgomery Advertiser*; Jay Reeves with the *Associated Press*; Ruth Servin Smith with *AL.com*; and Pat Duggins with *Alabama Public Radios* (on behalf of *NPR*). Mrs. Cole thanked any other members of the media and public that may be viewing by live stream.

Pro tem Starnes welcomed the media and all who were viewing the livestream.

Pro tem Starnes asked if there were any objections to the adoption of the agenda as presented. Hearing none, the agenda was unanimously adopted.

Pro tem Starnes said there was one item of business today: the consideration of a resolution amending the name of Lucy-Graves Hall at UA. Prior to opening the floor for discussion, Pro tem Starnes called for a motion to consider the item. On the motion of Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Wilson, the Board opened discussion on the item.

Pro tem Starnes recognized Trustee Emeriti John England, Jr. to present the item and respond to any questions.

Trustee Emeriti England gave the following presentation:

I am glad to be with you this morning. Since last Thursday, the Working Group has done some more work and decided to offer the resolution placing the name Autherine Lucy on the building formerly known as Graves Hall. I think each Trustee has that resolution. I will say that this has been a challenging time. In making its original recommendation, the Working Group certainly intended for the paired name to generate educational moments that can help us learn from our conflicts and rich history. Somehow or another, the honoring of Autherine Lucy

Foster sort of took the background. That is not what we wanted. We have heard from people whose opinion matters to us – students, faculty, and staff – that we can do that in a better way than we have done. For example, some individuals have said we need to use Dr. Foster’s married name rather than her maiden name. But we know that the family wants to use the name which is associated with the events in 1956 and the name that Dr. Autherine Lucy Foster had at that time. We know that is their desire and that is what we will do. We really appreciate Dr. Autherine Foster allowing us to put her name on that building to inspire others like myself. As I have learned from talking to members of the Working Group, we unanimously recommend that name alone, and we recognize that it is never too late to make the right decision.

I think that is what the Board of Trustees will do if they adopt the recommendation that we are making.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this process. I have learned a lot. My priority is that we move forward and that we honor someone who means a lot to me, and I am sure to others, by placing her name, standing alone, on the education building.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Pro tem Starnes thanked Emeriti Trustee England and said, “As I mentioned last week in our meeting, Judge England continues to serve this beloved University with distinction, with honor, and with great devotion. For that, we will continue to be very grateful. I will also note that all of us take a great deal of pride in the fact that as one rides around the campus of The University of Alabama, one will see John England Hall. For that, we are very grateful.”

Pro tem Starnes asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

Trustee Ken Simon asked if there is a policy with respect to including a person’s title, such as Dr. or judge, when naming public buildings.

Pro tem Starnes replied: "I do not know of a policy, Trustee Simon, but there has been a practice that is has not. For example, John England Hall is John England Hall, not Judge John England Hall."

Chancellor St. John replied: "I agree with that. I also believe this is the preference of Dr. Foster to list it as Autherine Lucy Hall."

Pro tem Starnes then called for a vote, and the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

Amending the Name of Lucy-Graves Hall to Autherine Lucy Hall

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the building names working group has continued its discussions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the name of Lucy-Graves Hall is hereby amended to Autherine Lucy Hall.

Pro tem Starnes said, the resolution is hereby approved, and Graves Hall will henceforth be known as Autherine Lucy Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.



Mark D. Foley, Jr.
Secretary of The Board of Trustees