

MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2023 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 Tuesday, March 7, 2023. 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 Marietta M. Urquhart, Trustee from
the First Congressional District;

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

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

The Honorable Jeff Gronberg, Trustee from
the Fifth Congressional District;

The Honorable Ronald W. Gray, 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 External Affairs Clay Ryan; Director of System Communications Lynn Cole; Assistant Vice Chancellor for Construction Management Mike Rodgers; UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D.; UAB Health System Authority CEO Dawn Bulgarella; UAB Health System General Counsel Dorothy Pak; and support staff from the campuses and System Office. The Honorable James W. Wilson, III, Trustee from the Third Congressional District, and The Honorable Evelyn VanSant Mauldin, Trustee from the Fourth Congressional District, were 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 Urquhart, Leonard, and Brooks that read as follows:

February 28, 2023

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 Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. to consider the following item:

- Consideration of a Resolution providing authorization to lease and install two Mobile Treatment Units to facilitate the temporary expansion of the University Emergency Department

Respectfully,

The Honorable Marietta Urquhart, Trustee from the First Congressional District
The Honorable Vanessa Leonard, Trustee from the Sixth Congressional District
The Honorable Karen Brooks, Trustee from the Seventh 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 reported *CBS42* was viewing the live stream and 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 providing authorization to lease and install two mobile treatment units to facilitate the temporary expansion of the University Hospital Emergency Department. Prior to opening the floor for discussion, Pro tem Starnes called for a motion to consider the item. On the motion of Trustee Brooks, seconded by Trustee Urquhart, the Board opened discussion on the item.

Pro tem Starnes recognized Assistant Vice Chancellor for Construction Management Mike Rodgers to present the item and respond to any questions.

Mr. Rodgers explained that the resolution requested authorization to lease and install two mobile treatment units from Mobile Healthcare Facilities, LLC of Powder Springs, Georgia, to facilitate the temporary expansion of the Emergency Department at University Hospital. These measures would provide 26 additional treatment spaces.

Pro tem Starnes thanked Mr. Rodgers and noted that emergency room overcrowding was a significant statewide issue.

Pro tem Starnes then recognized Dr. Watts for the following comments:

This is our short-term solution to the overcrowding in the emergency department, which has reached emergency levels and sometimes requires, more often than not, some diversion of patients who are critically ill. We will make sure we can take the patients who need to come to us. As you heard, 25% of our patients need to be admitted to the hospital. Our hospital is also running a very high census rate. The throughput sometimes backs up into the emergency department. We have had an emergency department task force working for a year, assessing what we can do short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term. The long-term plan is to build out and expand the emergency department into the North Pavilion, which is a major renovation that will take about 24-30 months or so to complete.

UAB Medicine Chief Facilities Officer & Vice President Arpan Limdi then gave additional details about the long-term expansion plan:

The long-term plan includes expanding the emergency department into the lobby of the North Pavilion. It will add approximately 60 additional treatment spaces along with imaging and other services that are necessary for the demand that we currently have coming into the emergency department.

Mrs. Bulgarella then gave the following comments:

Coming into the emergency room is a challenge for anybody. These temporary measures, until we can reach the longer-term solution, will help from a patient satisfaction perspective and allow patients to be in a confidential space. These are necessary steps to get us there.

Chancellor Finis E. St. John concluded with the following comments:

I support this 100%. I think we have done a good job of conveying the emergency, and I appreciate the good response by our UAB team.

Pro tem Starnes thanked Chancellor St. John and explained that the permanent solution would come before the Board at the April meeting in Huntsville. Pro tem Starnes asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. There were none.

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

Granting Authorization to Lease and Install Two Mobile Treatment Units to Facilitate the Temporary Expansion of the University Emergency Department

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, University Hospital, an operating entity of The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama (“UA Board”) managed by UAB Medicine Enterprise on behalf of the UAB Health System Authority, in furtherance of its mission to provide a continuum of health services of the highest quality, operates the University Emergency Department (UED) to provide emergency clinical care services; and

WHEREAS, University Hospital and the UED continue to experience unprecedented demand to provide complex tertiary and quaternary clinical care services that greatly exceed the physical capacity of the department; and

WHEREAS, suspension of certain regulatory requirements in response to the Covid-19 national and public health emergencies allowed University Hospital to make use of alternative space to accommodate Emergency Department clinical demand; and

WHEREAS, at the termination of the national and public health emergencies on May 11th, 2023, University Hospital will no longer be able to avail itself of the alternative space arrangements; and

WHEREAS, although University Hospital is planning a permanent expansion of the UED, it must act quickly to retain use of the alternate space in compliance with regulatory requirements and provide additional temporary capacity to continue to meet the demand for emergency clinical services; and

WHEREAS, University Hospital proposes to temporarily increase UED capacity by leasing and installing two mobile treatment units, renovating a portion of the North Pavilion lobby for temporary patient waiting, and renovating the existing UED waiting area into a low acuity treatment area; and

WHEREAS, University Hospital evaluated available mobile treatment units and determined that Mobile Healthcare Facilities, LLC is best able to meet the temporary needs of the UED; and

WHEREAS, Total Project Cost is as follows:

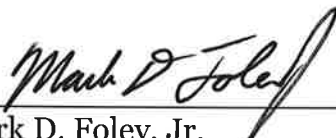
A. CONSTRUCTION	\$ 1,754,000
B. ARCHITECT/ENGINEER (8.7%)	\$ 152,000
C. SURVEYS, TESTING, INSPECTIONS	\$ 465,000
D. MOVABLE EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS	\$ 1,770,000
E. CONTINGENCY	\$ 176,000
F. OTHER (30 month lease of 2 mobile treatment units)	\$ 4,092,554
G. TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	\$8,409,554

WHEREAS, University Hospital will fund the capital expense of \$4,317,000 from the Hospital Plant Fund and the mobile treatment unit lease expense in the amount of \$4,092,554 from operations; and

WHEREAS, the UAB Health System Authority Executive Committee has recommended approval of this item;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that Bernard Mays, University Controller, or those officers named in the most recent Board Resolutions granting signature authority for University Hospital be, and each hereby is, authorized to act for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees to lease and install two mobile treatment units from Mobile Healthcare Facilities LLC and undertake renovations necessary for temporary expansion of the University Emergency Department for a Total Project Cost not to exceed \$8,409,554.

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



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