

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2025 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 in the Catherine and Pettus Randall Welcome Center Theater in Tuscaloosa on Monday, June 16, 2025. President pro tempore Scott M. Phelps chaired the meeting. Mark D. Foley, Jr., served as Secretary.

On roll call, the following Trustees were present:

The Honorable Angus R. Cooper III, Trustee from
the First Congressional District;

The Honorable Harris V. Morrisette, 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 J. Steven Roy, Trustee from
the Third Congressional District;

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

The Honorable Scott M. Phelps, President pro tempore and Trustee
from the Fourth Congressional District;

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

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

The Honorable Myla E. Calhoun, 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 O. Simon, Trustee from
the Seventh Congressional District

The meeting was also attended by UA System Chancellor Sid J. Trant; UA President Dr. Stuart R. Bell; UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D.; Trustee Emeritus Angus R. Cooper II; Trustee Emeritus Judge John H. England; Trustee Emeritus Joseph C. Espy; Trustee Emeritus John J. McMahon; Trustee Emerita Marietta P. Urquhart; Trustee Emeritus Finis E. St. John IV; and support staff from the System Office, the three campuses, and the UAB Health System. The Honorable Evelyn VanSant Mauldin, Trustee from the Fourth Congressional District; The Honorable O.B. Grayson Hall, Jr., Trustee from the Sixth Congressional District; UAH President Dr. Charles L. Karr; and UAB Health System Authority CEO Dawn Bulgarella were unable to attend.

Pro tem Phelps 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 Mauldin, Brooks, and Gray that read as follows:

June 9, 2025

Scott M. Phelps
500 University Blvd. E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Scott.phelps@greengroupinc.com

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 special-called meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. to consider the following item:

- Consideration of Appointment of 30th President at The University of Alabama

Respectfully,

The Honorable Mike Brock, Trustee from the Second Congressional District
The Honorable Karen P. Brooks, Trustee from the Seventh Congressional District
The Honorable Barbara Humphrey, Trustee from the Seventh Congressional District

cc: Chancellor Sid J. Trant

Pro tem Phelps explained that notice of the special meeting was sent to each member of the Board.

Pro tem Phelps said, "This is, indeed, a "special" meeting. Given the matter going before the Board today, we thought the Catherine and Pettus Randall "Welcome" Center was a fitting place to meet, and I want to thank you all for being here today and for your support of The University of Alabama. "

UA System Vice Chancellor for System Communications Lynn Cole introduced Will McLelland with *AL.com*; Mary Barron with *ABC33/40 News*; Maddie McQueen and James Johnston with *CBS 42*; Victor Hagan and Elijah McWhorter with *The Crimson White*; Mark Hughes Cobb, Caroline Simmons, Colin Gay and Ken Roberts with *The Tuscaloosa News*; Stephen Dethrage with *The Tuscaloosa Thread*; Bryan Henry with *WBRC 6 News*; Jalen Prince with *WVUA23 News*; Jon Paepcke, Jalen Holloway, and Mel Stephens with *WVTM 13*; Trish Crain with *Alabama Daily News*; and Grayson Everette with *Yellowhammer News*. She also welcomed any additional members of the media or the public who were viewing the meeting by livestream. Pro tem Phelps also welcomed those viewing the livestream.

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

Pro tem Phelps said we have one item of business today, which is the consideration of the appointment of the 30th President at The University of Alabama.

Pro tem Phelps recognized Trustee Karen Brooks, Chair of the UA Presidential Search Advisory Committee, for a report.

Trustee Brooks gave the following report:

Thank you all for being here this afternoon.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for the 30th President of the University of Alabama. This fantastic committee represented UA faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members, as well as the Board of Trustees and UA System leadership.

I want to begin by thanking the members of the Search Advisory Committee for the countless hours they committed to this search and would like to take a moment to recognize each of them for their tremendous service: Bill Brewbaker, Dean and Professor of The University of Alabama School of Law; Trustee Mike Brock; Samad Gillani, former President of the UA Student Government Association; Dr. Matthew Hudnall, President of the UA Faculty Senate and Associate Professor in the Culverhouse College of Business; Trustee Barbara Humprey; Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, UA System Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. James King, Jr., Associate Dean for Culture and Success and Miles-Rose Professor of Leadership in the Culverhouse College of Business; Shane Lyons, Executive Deputy Director of Athletics and Chief Operating Officer; Trustee Evie Mauldin; Dr. Matt McLendon, Associate Vice President and Executive Director for Enrollment Management; Chancellor Sid Trant; Jimmy Warren, Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Executive Director of the National Alumni Association; and Jackie Wuska Wear, UA Alumna and President and CEO of United Way of West Alabama.

We started our search process by listening to the University of Alabama community. We hosted six hour-long listening sessions open to alumni, faculty, community, staff, students, and any other supporters to share feedback and comments on characteristics, qualifications, and credentials for the 30th President of the University of Alabama. Over 500 individuals attended our listening sessions and helped us determine key criteria to look for in the next President. Thank you to everyone who participated in these sessions.

It is a tremendous compliment to UA's current President – Dr. Stuart Bell, who is here with us today – that so many in the

campus community identified positive qualities exemplified by Dr. Bell that they wanted to see in our next President. Stuart and Susan, thank you for all you have done for The University of Alabama.

A few prominent themes that emerged in these listening sessions were that the University of Alabama community wanted the next President to have a distinguished record of leadership at an R1 institution, a proven commitment to a student-centered university, impeccable character, and the ability to guide a large and successful Division I athletic program.

The Search Advisory Committee and our superb search consultants at Academic Search – Ann Die Hasselmo and Chris Butler – synthesized this valuable feedback to develop a presidential profile and position criteria, which was published online, widely advertised, and shared across the country as Academic Search conducted national recruitment outreach for seven weeks.

Our search consultants also created an email address to allow for applications, expressions of interest, and nominations to be submitted electronically and confidentially. Ensuring the confidentiality of our candidates was a crucial component of our process. This assurance – combined with Academic Search's excellent recruiting capabilities and the exciting opportunity to lead UA's continued trajectory as one of this country's premier public universities – led to a highly qualified applicant pool. This pool included sitting presidents, provosts, deans, and even executives outside of higher education.

Our Search Advisory Committee then selected candidates to interview, after which the Committee gave feedback on each candidate. Based on the Search Advisory Committee's feedback, the Chancellor and Trustees on the Committee identified finalists for additional interviews. As Chancellor Trant will soon detail, one candidate clearly distinguished himself throughout our search process.

Ann and Chris with Academic Search masterfully guided this search process, as they did with our past searches that yielded former president Dr. Robert Witt and current president Dr. Stuart Bell. We thank them for their long partnership with the University of Alabama.

Search Committee, again, I cannot thank you enough for your service, dedication and time. Serving on this committee was a

significant commitment, but I know we all agree that the process yielded an outstanding – and EXCITING! – outcome.

Thank you again to all who helped make this search such a successful one.

Pro tem Phelps thanked Trustee Brooks for her report.

Pro tem Phelps explained that, under the Board's bylaws, one of the duties of the University of Alabama System Chancellor is to recommend to the Board the appointments of the University Presidents and the Health System CEO.

Pro tem Phelps then recognized Chancellor Sid Trant to make his recommendation.

Chancellor Trant gave the following recommendation:

Thank you, Pro tem Phelps.

To the members of the Board of Trustees, thank you for the opportunity to bring to you such an important recommendation that will shape the future of The University of Alabama for years to come.

I also want to thank the members of the Search Advisory Committee for their tremendous service, and Board Secretary Mark Foley for his diligent and thoughtful coordination of the Search Committee and all of his excellent work to get us here today, as well as all the System Office employees who assisted us. As Trustee Brooks mentioned, our committee members and search consultants worked diligently for months to identify the ideal candidate. Someone with a distinguished record of leadership at an R1 institution. Someone with integrity and impeccable character. Someone with the ability to grow exemplary academic and research achievements and set forth a clear vision through plans that are ambitious, inspiring and sustainable. Someone with a proven commitment to a student-centered university, to excellence in academia and college athletics, and to serving the public and improving lives through teaching, research, and service.

I am very excited to announce that we have found that "someone."

Trustees, today it is my honor to recommend Dr. Peter Mohler to you to serve as the 30th president of The University of Alabama.

Dr. Mohler has served at the highest levels of leadership in higher education, including several months as Acting President at The Ohio State University – one of the largest flagship universities in the country and where he currently leads all research, corporate development, economic development, and workforce development initiatives as the university's Executive Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge. He also serves as chief scientific officer for the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and provides a critical connection between research and innovation efforts across all of Ohio State's campuses.

As one of only three Executive Vice Presidents at Ohio State, Dr. Mohler has been a transformative leader. He has elevated and enhanced the institution's research enterprise – which has climbed in national rankings – and generated explosive growth, with annual research expenditures surging from roughly \$600 million annually to top \$1.5 billion. He has created a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration focused on impact, designed innovative curricula and workforce development programs that are shaping future-ready graduates, and built strategic partnerships between the university, government, and industry designed to tie academic achievement to economic progress and real-world impact for students, the state and the nation.

He has consistently demonstrated the ability to envision the future, set big and meaningful goals, and implement ambitious – yet achievable – plans to reach them.

As Acting President of Ohio State in 2023, Dr. Mohler successfully led one of the largest public flagships in the nation. His presidency was marked by steady, values-driven leadership of a university with a \$10 billion budget as he oversaw the complexity of a large – and, as you know, successful – NCAA Division I athletics program, strengthened relationships with government and industry leaders, and spearheaded major philanthropic efforts at a time when the university was completing multiple transformative capital projects. During his presidency, he led 15 academic colleges and programs serving over 65,000 students while advancing key initiatives in enrollment growth, academic excellence, campus safety, and economic development, among others.

Importantly, Dr. Mohler is student-centered in every sense. From supporting innovative internship programs and enhancing entrepreneurial learning to improving graduation outcomes and aligning education with career pathways, he has shown a firm and focused commitment to student success. He has also demonstrated his dedication to upholding the core tenets of free speech and academic freedom, and he enjoys working hand-in-hand with partners across academia to solve problems.

Prior to his executive leadership roles at Ohio State, he served as Director of the Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute, Chair of the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, and Vice Dean of Research in the College of Medicine. He held faculty and leadership positions at Vanderbilt University, The University of Iowa, and Ohio State, with an extensive teaching and research portfolio focused on uncovering the genetics of rare forms of cardiac arrhythmia in children and young adults. A highly accomplished and respected researcher, Dr. Mohler has authored more than 275 peer-reviewed publications, received numerous awards and honors, and has been selected to serve in national and international academic leadership positions.

While originally from Colorado, Dr. Mohler is a proud product of higher education in the South, earning his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest – where he met his equally exceptional wife, Nancy – and then his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, followed by his postdoctoral training at Duke University.

Dr. Mohler's impressive resume is not the only thing that sets him apart. What also sets him apart is who he is as a person and a leader. Dr. Mohler is known not only for his intellect and work ethic but also for his authenticity and willingness to bring people together, listen actively, and act boldly. Colleagues describe him as an approachable and steady presence, an exceptional communicator, and a strategic thinker who “walks the talk” and never loses sight of the students at the heart of the mission.

Under Dr. Bell's decade of exemplary leadership, The University of Alabama has reached new heights, and he leaves a solid foundation. Dr. Mohler is uniquely equipped to build upon that foundation with his visionary leadership that will lead this University, and this state, to a brighter future.

Dr. Mohler is a proven leader. He has a deep respect for tradition while driving innovation. He has the vision to set new, ambitious

goals, and the passion, character and determination to guide this University to achieve those goals.

And he is committed to advancing the mission of our flagship university – and the University of Alabama System – to serve our students and our state through teaching, research and service that transforms lives.

I am confident that Dr. Mohler is ready to lead The University of Alabama and further this great institution's legacy of excellence. Trustees, it is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Dr. Peter Mohler to be the 30th President of The University of Alabama.

Pro tem Phelps thanked Chancellor Trant for his recommendation. He then called for a motion. Trustee Brooks moved to accept the Chancellor's recommendation to approve Dr. Peter Mohler to serve as the 30th president of The University of Alabama, and the motion was duly seconded.

Pro tem Phelps asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, Pro tem Phelps then called for a vote, and the Board unanimously approved Dr. Peter Mohler as the 30th president of The University of Alabama.

Pro tem Phelps then recognized Dr. Mohler for the following remarks:
75 days until kickoff. Roll Tide.

Thank you to everyone for being here this afternoon.

Let me begin by offering my wholehearted appreciation to the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and Chancellor Trant for this incredible opportunity. I also want to thank the members of the Search Committee for your thoughtful work throughout this process and for your dedication to the future of this great university. It is an honor to be named the next president of The University of Alabama, and I am truly humbled. This is an opportunity of a lifetime, and my family and I are thrilled to return to the South – particularly my wife Nancy, who has really missed the sweet tea – to join this dynamic and engaging community.

I also want to thank President Bell for his exceptional leadership. Let me say again, I want to thank Dr. Bell for his exceptional leadership. His countless accomplishments helped position UA for continued momentum, and I'm grateful for the strong foundation he leaves behind.

I would not be standing here today without the support of my family. I grew up in Grand Junction, Colorado, in a tight-knit family with parents who taught me the values that have shaped every step of my journey – loyalty, integrity, hard work, and the importance of community: values shared by this great University.

Nancy has been by my side since our days at Wake Forest, which is also where I discovered my passion for research and innovation after realizing what the University could be a part of in solving real, life-changing problems. We have raised three amazing children – Ella, Caroline and John – who continue to inspire us each and every day. I'm so grateful for their constant encouragement and support.

And, of course, I want to extend my gratitude to Ohio State University, where I've spent the past 15 years alongside a remarkable group of leaders and friends. This moment would not have been possible without you and the success we achieved at Ohio State.

To the faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters of The University of Alabama, I cannot wait to meet you, listen to you, and learn from you. I am excited by the talented leadership team in place here and honored to join you in the work ahead. Together, we have the opportunity to build upon a legacy of excellence and shape the next era of impact at UA.

From my days in the lab studying the mechanisms underlying cystic fibrosis and working to unlock the genetic basis of cardiac arrhythmia in children and athletes, to my time in the classroom, to my leadership roles in higher education, the heart of my work has always been about one thing: bringing people together to create impact. Building strong, interdisciplinary teams with a common purpose and a deep focus on outcomes that matter is my true north. I believe deeply in partnering with faculty, staff, and students. By locking our arms together with shared vision and determination – that's when universities show their true power.

What drew me here was not just The University of Alabama's impressive reputation for academic and athletic excellence as a student-centered university, it's the aligned sense of pride and purpose that runs through this university through the Board, Chancellor, and each and every student. A commitment to student success. To public service and citizenship. To solving problems that matter. To success in athletics. To educating the next generation of leaders of Alabama and the world.

Over the coming months, my priority will be simple: listening. Listening to campus community members, university supporters, alumni, government leaders, and community partners. To learn what makes UA special to them, and then to work together to chart our pathway forward. We'll build on the exceptional work happening here today. And we'll ensure that every student leaves this university ready to succeed and make a difference.

I'm excited to work alongside every member of this campus community and the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, and my fellow leaders across the UA System and to engage with the campus through shared governance. I also look forward to partnering with Deans, faculty, and industry and state leaders to grow the university as an engine for economic innovation and development for the State of Alabama. This is a System with extraordinary strengths and momentum, and I believe that by working together, we can tackle the big challenges that matter most to Alabama and beyond.

We are at a pivotal moment in higher education, and as a public flagship, we must recommit ourselves to our unique public mission – one that I believe is in the fabric of our country. This is a place for civil discourse, a place for exploring new ideas, and a place for changing lives – not only the lives of our students but also their families and the communities we serve. What we do here has a transformational ripple effect that cannot be measured. When higher education succeeds, everyone succeeds.

To have the chance to serve this university in this moment is the opportunity of a lifetime. The University of Alabama is distinctly positioned to ascend as the nation's premier public flagship university. The future at the Capstone is incredibly bright, and I can't wait to get started.

Thank you and Roll Tide!

Pro tem Phelps asked if there was any further business to come before the Board.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Foley, Jr.", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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