UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Resolution

Amending the Name of the James Marion Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAB

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (“UAB”) spearheaded a statewide campaign to raise $1 million for women’s health initiatives, including raising funds to endow a chair in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the School of Medicine named in honor of Dr. James Marion Sims, who is often referred to as the “father of modern gynecology”; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 1976, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution establishing the Sims Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 1985, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution redesignating the Sims Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology as the James Marion Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology; and

WHEREAS, after additional funds were raised, on February 15, 2001, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution converting the Sims Endowed Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology to the Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology; and

WHEREAS, under Board Rule 411, the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama (“Board of Trustees”) has the exclusive discretion to amend, remove, or withdraw any naming at any time and for any reason; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2020, the President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees appointed a working group of Trustees to conduct a comprehensive review of the names of buildings, structures, and spaces on all UA System campuses; and

WHEREAS, the School of Medicine requested that the Board of Trustees amend the name of the Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology and, at the direction of the President Pro Tempore, the working group conducted a review of the request;

WHEREAS, the working group’s review is governed by the institutional best interests of the University of Alabama System, and the Board of Trustees must take great care to demonstrate and honor the current values of the University of Alabama System; and

WHEREAS, based upon its own investigation and consultation with the School of Medicine and several historical experts, the working group reviewed the historical record as it relates to Dr. Sims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees that the name of
the James Marion Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology is hereby amended to the Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology.