

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 13, 2021

- 1** Roll Call
Approved: [Revised Agenda](#)
- 2** Approved: [Charge to the Presidential Search Committee](#)
- 3** Approved: [Presidential Search Process Preliminary Budget](#)
- 4** Approved: [Presidential Search Firm](#)
- 5** Discussion: [Presidential Search Process as Prescribed in the Presidential Search Guidelines](#)
Approved: [Executive Session](#)

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Executive Committee

April 13, 2021

12:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees was duly convened by Mr. Jimmy Shumock, Chair *pro tempore*, on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Frederick P. Whiddon Administration Building. Public access was provided via YouTube livestream.

Members: Alexis Atkins, Jimmy Shumock and Jim Yance were present and Tom Corcoran, Steve Furr and Arlene Mitchell participated remotely.

Member Absent: Ken Simon.

Other Trustees: Chandra Brown Stewart, Ron Graham, Ron Jenkins and Lenus Perkins.

Administration & Guests: Kristin Dukes, Monica Ezell, Mike Haskins and John Smith.

The meeting came to order and the attendance roll was called, **Item 1**. Chairman Shumock called for a motion to adopt a revised agenda to include an executive session. On motion by Mr. Yance, seconded by Ms. Atkins, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt a revised agenda.

Chairman Shumock said the purpose of the meeting was to address the actions required of the Board and procedural matters as outlined in the Presidential Search Guidelines (the Guidelines) in order for the search process to continue. He added that the President Search Committee (PSC) had recently held its first meeting. He presented a charge from the Board of Trustees to the PSC, **Item 2**, and called for the Committee's consideration. On motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Atkins, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the charge to the PSC.

Chairman Shumock presented **Item 3**, the authorization of a preliminary budget for the president search process. He reviewed that costs incurred for the 2013-2014 search process were in the range of \$175,000 to \$180,000 and stated that the fees recently quoted by several national search firms were comparable to those submitted in 2013. He indicated that the Board's selection of the search firm recommended by the PSC would likely hold search costs near the amount spent for the previous search. He suggested that a preliminary search budget of \$200,000 should be ample for the completion of the search and called for the Committee's consideration. On motion by Mr. Corcoran, seconded by Mr. Yance, the Committee voted unanimously to approve a preliminary search budget of \$200,000.

Chairman Shumock introduced **Item 4**, the authorization of a national search firm to assist the PSC through the search process. He advised that the PSC reached full consensus on its recommendation of R. William Funk and Associates (RWF), the same firm that assisted South with the 2013-2014 president search. He added that RWF had been involved in many successful searches for high-profile institutions and he made a motion to approve RWF to represent USA in the search for the next president. Ms. Atkins seconded and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the engagement of RWF.

Chairman Shumock gave an overview of the president search process, **Item 5**, addressing each aspect of the *Board of Trustees Actions* and *Search Committee Actions* portions of the Guidelines. He advised that Trustees who were not PSC members could observe PSC meetings, but could not participate. He stated the PSC would hold a meeting soon with the involvement of the search firm. He anticipated that the PSC would receive candidate information over the summer and be able to recommend a short list of finalists to the Board during the fall, at which time, he stated, the identities of the candidates would become public and the entire campus community would become fully engaged in the search process. He stated the Board, as per the Guidelines, would be working through the details concerning the role of the outgoing president.

In accordance with the provisions of the Alabama Open Meetings Act, Chairman Shumock made a motion to convene an executive session for an anticipated duration of 30 minutes for the purpose of discussing good name and character. He said Ms. Dukes had submitted the required written declaration for the minutes and that the meeting would effectively be adjourned at the conclusion of the executive session. Ms. Atkins seconded and, at 12:23 p.m., the Executive Committee voted unanimously to convene an executive session, as recorded below.

AYES:

- Ms. Atkins
- Mr. Corcoran
- Dr. Furr
- Ms. Mitchell
- Mr. Shumock
- Mr. Yance

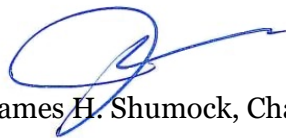
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Attest to:



Katherine Alexis Atkins, Secretary

Respectfully submitted:



James H. Shumock, Chair *pro tempore*