



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To: The Tuskegee University Community

From: Norma Clayton,
Chair of the Board

Ruby Perry, DVM, PhD, DACVR
Acting President

Date: January 31, 2020

Subject: Winter meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Tuskegee University Board of Trustees (“Board”) held its winter meeting/retreat in Atlanta, Georgia January 16 – 18, 2020. Trustee H. Jerome Russell, President of H.J. Russell & Company hosted the winter meeting. The Board traditionally uses its winter meeting/retreat as an opportunity to discuss the state of the university and address challenges affecting higher education.

The meeting began Thursday with a tour of the new Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RCIE) as well as presentations from Trustee Russell and RCIE President and CEO Jay Bailey on the vision of the center and its goal of bringing a world-class innovation and leadership center in Atlanta’s historic Castleberry Hills neighborhood. The Board also heard presentations from consulting firms, Ernst & Young, Parthenon, and McKinsey & Company, on the ever-changing competitive landscape in higher education, with an emphasis on HBCUs, and the impact of automation on the tomorrow’s workforce.

As mentioned earlier this month, President McNair is on medical leave for the spring semester, and the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ruby Perry, is serving in the role of Acting President. The Board continued its winter meeting on Friday afternoon. Dr. Perry presented the president’s report to the board, and the President’s Cabinet provided updates on the academic and financial operations. The following is a summary of the major discussions/actions taken during the meeting:

- Dr. Perry briefed the board on several priority areas for the university during the spring semester: strategic plan; advancement and fundraising; enrollment management and student success; academic affairs; federal funding, and campus safety.



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- Executive Vice President and CFO, Dr. Sharron Burnett, provided an overview of the university's financial performance for the current fiscal year. She also discussed the process of the upcoming annual budgeting process.
- Interim Provost, Dr. Carla Bell, offered updates on the reorganization of the Office of the Provost, the new Booker T. Washington Leadership Institute, and the implementation of the university's QEP – REACH: Road from Early Achievement to a Career High. The REACH Center will house all student tutorial support, writing center, career development, and student advising and mentoring. The Office of the Provost will work in collaboration with Divisions Enrollment Management and Student Success and Student Affairs to implement the center.
- Dr. Shirley Friar, Chief of Staff, presented updates on the early stages of the strategic planning process and discussed the timeline for a delivering a plan to the Trustees for review and discussion. Trustee Byron Jones will serve as the Board's representative on the strategic planning committee.
- Vice President for Advancement, Phillip Howard, discussed the implementation of a new CRM system, Raiser's Edge, will lead to improved cultivation and engagement, and the introduction of a new alumni portal that will allow opportunities for increased partnerships with the alumni.
- The Board approved President McNair's appointment of new additional cabinet members:
 - Joseph Montgomery as the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success;
 - Dr. Kimberly Scott as the Vice President for Student Affairs.