

MEMORANDUM

TO: UAH Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch, President

DATE: September 16, 2013

SUBJECT: September Board of Trustees Meeting

The University of Alabama Board of Trustees met on Friday, September 13, 2013, and approved several items important to UAH in which I thought you would have interest. In particular, the Board:

1. Approved the FY14 Budget, including the FY14 salary program, which can be found at <http://www.uah.edu/budget>. Notice of salaries for FY14 will be distributed toward the end of September.
2. Approved establishing an Honors College at UAH. We currently have an Honors Program, and the Program will undergo a transition to a College. While Honors Programs typically provide a campus-wide enriched academic experience for talented undergraduate students in all disciplines, Honors Colleges provide extended functions, including, but not limited to, Honors housing, leadership opportunities, research opportunities, Honors lecture series, among others. Because we already provide many of the extended functions of an Honors College the transition from a Program to a College is appropriate at this time. The College designation will provide more visibility for our honors programming, enhance recruiting, and assist in raising the academic profile of first-time-full-time freshmen in support of the Strategic Plan. A Dean of the Honors College, whom we will recruit this academic year, will have a seat at the Council of Deans.
3. Approved establishing the Department of Space Science in the College of Science composed of a cluster of space physics faculty currently in the Department of Physics. Additionally, the Department will be closely coupled with the Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research (CSPAR) and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center scientists, many of whom are housed in the National Space Science and Technology Center in Cramer Hall. Formation of the Department supports our Strategic Priority of developing further our national and international prominence in Earth, Atmospheric, and Space Science.
4. Acknowledged as information items the establishment of the i) Public History Cognate, which offers students an interdisciplinary cognate that features classes in historical interpretation, cultural resource management, historical archaeology, architectural history, and fosters community service and engagement through outreach projects consistent in support of University Goals, and ii) the HPE Certificate in Sports Coaching and Athletics Performance.
5. Approved a ground lease for the Rise School of Huntsville to be located on the UAH campus. The Rise School (<http://www.riseofhuntsville.org/>) is a non-profit organization providing early childhood education services to children with and without developmental disabilities. The School is located behind Olin B. King Technology Hall, consisting of three portable classrooms, a tricycle track, and a playground. Our Department of Education and our College of Nursing will partner with the Rise School to provide services to Rise and learning opportunities for our students.

Other actions the Board took were to approve purchase of a house on Austin Drive and one on Holmes Avenue just east of the Fitness Center. The one on Austin Drive will be placed in the inventory of houses for rent to faculty and staff. The house on Holmes will be razed. Finally, the Board approved the sale of a house, previously bequeathed to the University through the MaryLou Durkee Management Trust, with the proceeds benefitting the College of Engineering endowment as directed by the Trust.

Thanks,

Bob