



Dear Tuskegee University Community,

“Tuskegee University is an inextricable part of American History. This legacy and future are entrusted to each of us. Together is how we will secure its greatest ‘now’ and greatest ‘future’.”

-John Page, Chairman
Tuskegee University Board of Trustees

We have but one mission: to educate and graduate leaders who will contribute to the betterment of our communities, society, and global neighborhoods in line with our commitment to improve the human condition.

In an effort to improve our communications with parents, students, potential students, faculty, staff, alumni and stakeholders, Tuskegee University (“TU”) will regularly publish information on Tuskegee University Board of Trustees (“Board”) meetings and other considerations and decisions the University is undertaking.

In this letter, we will provide information on the University Board structure; a listing of Board meeting dates and locations; and provide continuous updates on areas of importance, including but not limited to: the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (“SACSCOC”) warning, the budget, endowment, alumni affairs, and right-sizing of the University faculty and staff forces.

Board of Trustees

The Tuskegee University Board of Trustees serves as the governing and fiduciary body for Tuskegee University.

Chief among our roles is to ensure the mission, teaching, service and research of the University are well supported and that our students complete their education and are employable. As such, the Board is responsible for such tasks as: creating policies, setting the mission and purpose, strategic planning, reviewing programs, and relating campus to community and community to campus. The Board’s administrative responsibilities include providing oversight of the University through the President. Equally important is our role in fundraising, as well as engaging our alumni, parent, and student communities.

Currently, the Board is composed of 17 self-perpetuating members, including 5 members appointed by the Governor of Alabama ("State Trustees"), all of whom have full voting rights. In addition, the President of the University, the Alabama Superintendent of Education, a Faculty Trustee, and a Student Trustee all serve as non-voting members of the Board. Aside from the State Trustees and non-voting members, Board trustees serve a three-year term of office.

The Chairman of the Board serves as the Board's spokesperson and no individual trustee may take any action on behalf of the Board without prior express authority.

Current board members, seven of whom are TU alumni, are all respected and accomplished individuals, representing diverse professions and areas of expertise.

Tuition Increase

During the September 2016 meeting, the Board focused on enhancing the structure required to continue to succeed and accelerate our achieved success. Among the actions taken, the Board approved a 3.5% increase on tuition, fees, and room & board rates for all undergraduate and graduate students, with the exception of the College of Veterinary Medicine. This represents the first tuition increase in three years.

The increase will be effective for the 2017-2018 academic year (July 2017-June 2018) and will add approximately \$1,000 to the annual cost of attendance for the average undergraduate student residing in on-campus housing. This increase will help the University keep pace with increasing costs to enhance student life and meet the costs of TU's operational expenses.

SACSCOC

Tuskegee University is and remains fully accredited. The University can confer degrees at all the levels of its degree programs, both undergraduate and graduate level, including doctoral, professional, master's and bachelor's degrees.

The SACSCOC five (5) year monitoring review is part of a peer review process. For TU the period of review covered 2008-2013. TU welcomes the review and guidance afforded by the process.

In June 2015, following the initial March 2014 submittal and subsequent referral report provided in April 2015, TU was placed on warning for a number of reasons including Core Requirement 2.2 concerning University governance. We are pleased to report that Core Requirement 2.2 has been fully addressed and removed. In July 2016, SACSCOC continued its warning but removed four items that were satisfactorily addressed by TU.

need to be addressed for the prospectus to be approved. However, because the University is on a public sanction, SACSCOC requires resubmission of the entire prospectus. Despite the fact that the prospectus was not approved, the University remains in compliance with SACSCOC because approval is only required prior to offering 50% or more of the first fully online degree. Currently, we are below that level with our online degree programs.

A revised prospectus was submitted in September 2016 with emphasis placed on the two items of concern from the original prospectus. To address the shortcomings identified in the first prospectus, the Tuskegee University credit hour policy was modified to explicitly reference the distance learning course modality and the corresponding credit hour equivalent.

Tuskegee National Alumni Association (TNAA)

The Board and TU recognize TNAA as the official voice of the alumni. TNAA provides alumni with a workable framework to receive information and participate in TU affairs in an organized and effective manner.

Notwithstanding this position, TU leadership welcomes hearing from alumni and commits that alumni concerns will always be heard, considered and addressed respectfully and responsibly.

Comprehensive Board Actions

The below actions represent a substantive portion of the actions taken by the Board of Trustees at its Fall Meeting on October 1, 2016.

Board Actions **Fall 2016 Meeting**

1. Received and reviewed the President and Staff's Report on the University progress toward completing the remaining action items for the University's current SACS warning.
2. Approved the creation of a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science.
3. Approved a 3.5% increase on tuition, fees, and room and board for all undergraduate and graduate students. This increase will not apply to students in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
4. Approved adjustments to the FY 2016-2017 budget.
5. Approved the renewal of an IT contract geared toward providing quality network capabilities for the campus.
6. Adopted a resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Board to name members of the University Board of Advisors, a non-governing body geared toward providing support to the University.
7. Re-elected Trustees Bernard Anderson, Norma Clayton, and Felker Ward to another three-year term of office.
8. Elected Dr. Irving McConnell, CEO of the McConnell Group and a two-time graduate of Tuskegee University, as a new member of the Board of Trustees. Dr. McConnell will serve a three-year term of office.
9. Trustee Erick Harris was selected to serve as Second Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
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Lastly, I wish you all a very happy Homecoming. I also wish to congratulate the classes of 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011. Special recognition to the Class of 1991, which celebrates their 25th Reunion this year. As we enjoy the Homecoming festivities, let us all continue to celebrate the bonds that tie us together—a love for Mother Tuskegee.

I hope that this communication has been helpful to you. As always, we thank you for your continued interest, support and advocacy on behalf of our beloved Tuskegee University.

Yours Truly,

John E. Page, Chairman
Tuskegee University Board of Trustees