

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA  
PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**May 24, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

A meeting of the University of South Alabama's President Search Committee (PSC) was duly convened by Ms. Alexis Atkins, Chair, on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 9:07 a.m. in the Chief Calvin W. McGhee Grand Ballroom of the MacQueen Alumni Center.

Members: Alexis Atkins, Owen Bailey, Robbie Baker, Chandra Brown Stewart, Mike Chang, Sam Dean, Andi Kent, Kim Lawkis, Alexandria Lee, Todd McDonald, Tia Nickens, Lenus Perkins, Beth Shepard, Alvin Williams and Jim Yance.

Members Absent: Zeke Aull, Madeleine Boudreaux and Jimmy Shumock.

Others: John Cleary, Krisha Creal, Kristin Dukes, Monica Ezell, Bill Funk, Charlie Guest, Mike Haskins and Mike Windom.

The meeting came to order and the attendance roll was called. Ms. Atkins welcomed the group and called for consideration of the minutes of the meeting held on May 6, 2021. On motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Ms. Lawkis, the committee voted unanimously to adopt the minutes.

Ms. Atkins stated that the primary business at-hand was to discuss the draft leadership statement (the Statement) that had been provided to PSC members prior to the meeting and approve the document with any revisions the PSC agreed were appropriate. She said the existing draft was well-crafted and she noted the recent addition of graphics capturing the beauty of campus and featuring Mobile. She added that the approved Statement would be publicized on the University's website and forwarded to Mr. Bill Funk, President of R. William Funk & Associates (RWF) – the University's consultant for the president search, to submit to nationally recognized higher education organizations. She opened the floor for dialog on further modifications to the Statement and the committee reached consensus on the addition of graphics in the section titled "The University" portraying the total number of alumni and the diversity of the student body; the addition of verbiage in the section titled "The Position" specifying that the next president should demonstrate a commitment to supporting the teaching, research and service objectives of the faculty; and distribution of the Statement, inclusive of the noted modifications, without further review by the committee. Ms. Atkins called for a motion to accept the document with the agreed-upon changes. On motion by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Shepard, the committee voted unanimously to adopt the leadership statement.


As to the next steps of the search process, Ms. Atkins projected that a PSC meeting would likely occur in July with Mr. Funk discussing progress on the search. She stated that meetings with University stakeholder groups would be scheduled in the interim for the purpose of collecting input to aid the committee in its deliberations on the candidates. She asked Mr. Funk to share other pertinent information. Mr. Funk provided perspective on an uptick in president searches nationwide over the last couple of years and talked about current searches. He said that, in addition to providing an update on the progress of the search at the next meeting, access to the encrypted "Client Center" website would be granted to the committee to view the master log of everyone contacted about the position and candidacy status, as well as the application materials submitted by active candidates. He advised that, following the August 1 application deadline, a meeting would be scheduled to distill the candidate pool to approximately eight semifinalists for

the first round of interviews, which he noted could occur in September and be conducted virtually if the committee desired. He stated that the committee would then identify three to four candidates to recommend to the Board as finalists who could come to campus later in September for a second round of interviews. He projected that a decision on the next president could be made in October or early November and that the individual selected could potentially begin in the president's role in January 2022. He encouraged the group to talk with colleagues and friends about nominating individuals and pledged that the RWG team would contact everyone nominated for the position. He discussed the ads that had been placed recently in higher education journals and reviewed that RWG would also be contacting major higher education associations about the position. He advised of five active candidates thus far and said six individuals had indicated that they were considering becoming a candidate. Ms. Atkins thanked Mr. Funk for the update.


Ms. Atkins asked the group if other business needed to be addressed. Ms. Shepard asked about the status of the president search website and Mr. Haskins stated that the website was active and the address was "southalabama.edu/presidentsearch." He affirmed that the leadership statement would be posted once finalized and recommended that a communication updating the University and alumni communities about the progress of the search be released soon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Attest to:

  
Chandra Brown Stewart, Secretary

Respectfully submitted:

  
Katherine Alexis Atkins, Chair