President’s Communiqué

Dr. Ken Kitts

January 22, 2025

Colleagues: Please see below for important information and updates on developments of interest for our campus community.

Governmental Relations: This will be an unusually active spring for us in terms of governmental relations. At the federal level, there is a new presidential administration and a new Congress in Washington coupled with one party control of the House of Representatives, Senate, and White House for the first time in five years. Accordingly, we are prepared to monitor developments in the nation’s capital on issues such as Title IX, federal financial aid for higher education, and new legislation dealing with college athletics. At the state level, the legislative session will soon begin in Montgomery – see below for more details on that topic. At the local level, we are just over six months away from elections for the posts of mayor and city council in Florence and the other municipalities that make up our immediate service region. Candidates are already beginning to organize campaigns and highlight issues of importance. The outcomes of these local elections are important due to their impact on town-gown relations and on our prospects for being able to make additional progress on projects such as safety enhancements on the municipal roadways that run through campus.

Legislative Session: The 2025 session of the Alabama Legislature will begin on Tuesday, February 4. Jay Cochran, our governmental relations specialist, is monitoring all legislation introduced and alerting officials on campus when proposals arise that could have a bearing on University interests. As noted in my previous communications, we are already engaged with state officials regarding our budget status and needs for FY 26. The House of Representatives remains under the leadership of Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter of Colbert County. The Senate will have a new leader this year as Garlan Gudger of Calhoun assumes the role of President Pro Tempore of that body. All funding for higher education flows through the Education Trust Fund. There is some concern about declining balances in that fund due to tax cuts enacted last year as well as costs associated with recent policy decisions. My purpose here is not to argue for or against these enactments. It is the prerogative of our elected officials to legislate as they think appropriate. Even so, decisions carry financial implications, and the year-to-year decline in ETF revenues creates additional challenges as we seek to serve

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ce the appeal of “West Village” at UNA. It makes sense to bring that area more into the
r campus life and list of parking options. As this topic relates to Greek life at UNA, it is worth
nity and Sorority Life (FSL) accounts for 11.2% of our undergraduate population. Last fall, the
our Greek students was 3.27, a mark that exceeds that of the general student body, with 20% of
rning a 4.0 GPA in fall term.

on: Our alumni make us proud every day for their good work and for the positive attention
A through their accomplishments. Two recent alumni transitions warrant special mention here
raduates who have worked on the national stage. Earlier this month, Sonceria Ann Berry (BS’78,

Education)