

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Official Proceedings of the

Three Hundred and Eightieth Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(A Regular Meeting)

February 23, 2021

The Three Hundred and Eightieth Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 via WebEx Conferencing of the University of Cincinnati. Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. The proceedings of the Board, when not otherwise provided for by its bylaws, are governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Ronald D. Brown, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Mr. Brown asked that roll be called.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald D. Brown, Margaret K. Valentine, Kim Heiman, Phil Collins, Thomas E. Mischell, J. Phillip Holloman, Monica Turner, Greg Hartmann

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Geraldine B. Warner

ALSO PRESENT: Neville G. Pinto, President;
Robert F. Ambach, Senior Vice President for
Administration and Finance;
Kristi Nelson, Provost & Senior Vice President
Academic Affairs;
Lori Ross, General Counsel;
Ryan Hays, Executive Vice President;
Andrew Filak Jr., Sr. VP for Health Affairs and
Dean, College of Medicine
Jack Cohen, Graduate Student Trustee;
Abigail Klare, Undergraduate Student Trustee;
Logan Lindsay, Undergraduate Student Body
President;

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Greg Loving, Faculty Senate Chair;
Peter Disimile, Faculty Representative;
Melanie Kroger-Jarvis, Faculty Representative;
Chris Collins, Chair, University Staff Senate
Nicole Blount, Executive Director of Board
Relations;
and the public

(Prior to the Board Committee Meetings and the Regular Board Meeting, Chairman Brown began the proceedings at approximately 8:30 a.m.)

Mr. Brown:

Good morning. I'd like to call the meeting of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees Meeting to order. It's hard to believe that it was one year ago this month that our Board last met in person, although sometimes it feels like it is longer than that. It was also one year ago this month that the university sent out its first message to the campus community on COVID-19. This marks our 6th straight Board Meeting which we have held virtually.

This pandemic has taken a toll on a number of people and our hearts go out to all who have been affected by the loss of loved ones and to those who have otherwise suffered hardship during this Pandemic. There are many signs of hope as vaccines are now in the process of being distributed throughout the nation. I was fortunate enough to receive my first vaccine shot through UC Health. I must say that I was quite impressed with the collaborative effort of UC Health and our Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing, including the UC students who were involved in distributing the vaccines. It was an incredibly well organized and efficient process and ended up being a pleasant and painless experience for me. I would like to thank and congratulate our colleges and UC Health for what they are doing in our community. We all look forward to the inoculation

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program's continued progress and success. It is great that UC and UC Health are playing such an important role for our community.

Trustee Ginger Warner is unable to be with us today. As many of you know, Ginger completed her nine-year term as trustee. She was an incredibly dedicated trustee who always had the best interest of our students and our university at the top of our mind. We are going to invite her to attend the April meeting so that we can properly acknowledge her many contributions and give her the farewell she certainly deserves.

I spoke to Ginger yesterday and she wished she could be here today, but she asked that I say on her behalf that she feels honored that Governor DeWine found an individual with strong qualifications and reputation to take her seat on the board for the next nine years. This past Friday, Governor DeWine announced the appointment of Jill McGruder who is Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of Western and Southern Financial Group to our Board of Trustees with a term that begins this February 25 and ends January 1, 2030. We all look forward to Jill McGruder joining our board. She brings vast community involvement and experience that will be very beneficial as we continue to advance the University of Cincinnati.

At this time, it is time to hear from President Pinto for his report.

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Chairman Brown, and good morning everybody. It is wonderful to see you all and wonderful to be here for the first meeting of 2021. On behalf of the university, I want to thank all of the trustees for all of the guidance you have provided us during this challenging year and combined with the wonderful work of our faculty, staff, and our students that has gotten us to this point. We still have a way to go and are still working diligently. The power of science has gotten

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us to where we are with science, knowledge, and talent. That is the way I describe it and reemphasizes the need for universities like ours, Research One universities with tremendous talent that we have to serve our communities.

I am glad for everyone to be here healthy. I think the light at the end of the tunnel is starting to show up. We will continue to be cautious and we are going to be so as we continue to move through the Summer and make sure that the health of our community trumps everything else as we move forward in delivering on our mission.

I look forward to thanking trustee Warner for her service in April. She has been a tremendous trustee for our university and I also look forward to welcoming trustee designee Jill McGruder at the next meeting.

Each of you should have received a copy of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees. I hope you had a chance to review it. You will see that despite all the challenges, our faculty, staff, and students continue to deliver at the highest level. If you look at the range of accomplishments, I think it covers Geology, CCM, Medicine, Interior Design, Physics, Engineering, Pharmacy, and Sciences. There are accomplishments in each one of those areas and it talks about the wonderful work our healthcare community is doing for the city.

What I thought I would do today is focus on one aspect that I think is very relevant to this past year. The online U.S. News and World Report rankings for our online programs were just announced recently and I think most of you will recognize and know that the university has been quietly making a strong impression in the online world for a few decades. In fact, when we started to work on getting through the pandemic, one of every seven students of the university were studying completely online. It was that experience and basis that provided us the ability to deliver

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on our mission under the current constraints that we had with the pandemic. The rankings reflect the quality of the programs that we have:

- Four master's programs in the top 25 in the nation
 - No. 11 - online master's in criminal justice, (also No. 7 best for veterans),
 - No. 12 online master's in computer information technology,
 - No. 14 online master's in nursing (No. 5 best for veterans),
 - No. 21 online non-MBA master's in business
- We also have two other master's programs in the top 50
 - No. 46 online master's in education
 - No. 50 online master's in engineering
 - And our online MBA is close to top 50 at No. 51
- Our online undergraduate bachelor's program overall is No. 75 in the country

My congratulations to the Online Program at the University of Cincinnati, the administration, the staff that has gotten us to this point, and most importantly to our faculty for all these great programs.

For the second half of my oral report, I thought I would focus on something that is on your agenda and it is a recommendation that we and the administration made with great pride. This recommendation is for our 2021 Distinguished Professors. Each of them is attending this meeting virtually. We wish we could recognize them in person, but those are the limitations of our present time. You will also be able to see their photos on screen right now. I'd like to acknowledge each of these stellar faculty and Provost Nelson will tell you more about them in her report in the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting.

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- Our candidate for Distinguished Teaching Professor is Dr. Jane Sojka. Jane worked for 15 years as a professional in business prior to earning her PhD in marketing in 1995. She joined the marketing faculty at our Lindner College of Business in 2010. Congratulations, Dr. Sojka, on your nomination for this distinguished award.

- We have two Distinguished Research Professor candidates. I will introduce them in alphabetical order: Dr. Bonnie Fisher first joined UC's faculty in 1991. She is now a Professor in criminal justice in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services and is a previous winner of our George Rieveschl Award for Creative and/or Scholarly Works. Congratulations, Dr. Fisher, on your nomination.

- Finally, our Distinguished Research Professor candidate is Dr. Kenneth Sherman, who serves as the Gould Professor of Medicine, and the Director/Chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases in our College of Medicine. He joined the UC faculty in 1994. Congratulations, Dr. Sherman on your nomination.

As you will learn from Provost Nelson, these are three very outstanding faculty and true leaders in their field. I hope you will agree they are all tremendously deserving of this recognition.

With that, I will turn the meeting back to you, Chairman Brown.

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Mr. Brown:

Thank you very much, President Pinto. Congratulations to the candidates for distinguished professor awards and congratulations to everyone, faculty, staff, and the students for being a part of one of the top universities in this country. Congratulations to all of you. You should all be proud of being a part of the University of Cincinnati.

We will now proceed with our committee meetings.

THE BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(Proceedings of the Board committee meetings are contained in the respective committee meeting minutes, which are on file in the Office of the Board of Trustees.)

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Finance and Administration Committee began at 8:45 am and concluded at 9:07 am.

Mr. Brown:

There being no further business, we will now call our regular meeting to order.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees convened at 9:07 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

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Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Mr. Brown:

Are there any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve the December 16, 2020 regular meeting minutes?

(A motion was moved by Mrs. Valentine, second by Mr. Mischell)

Mr. Brown:

All those in favor say “aye.” All opposed say “nay”. Thank you. The Minutes are approved.

Approval of the Items Recommended by the Board Committees

Listed below are the items recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Finance and Administration Committee at their respective meetings today, February 23, 2021.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Recommendation

21.02.23.01 Approval of Academic Appointments

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointments of faculty and academic administrators. These recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

Emeritus Status

Maria Alonso, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Emerita
 College of Medicine
 Department of Surgery
 Effective January 1, 2021

Robert Arner, PhD

Professor Emeritus
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Department of English
 Effective January 1, 2021

George Bible

Associate Professor Emeritus

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College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning
 School of Architecture and Interior Design
 Effective January 1, 2021

Kenneth Davis, Jr., MD

Professor Emeritus
 College of Medicine
 Department of Surgery
 Effective January 31, 2021

William Hurford, MD

Professor Emeritus
 College of Medicine
 Department of Anesthesiology
 Effective January 1, 2021

Alan Jobe, MD, PhD

Professor Emeritus
 College of Medicine
 Department of Pediatrics
 Effective December 1, 2020

Jonathan Kamholtz, PhD

Associate Professor Emeritus
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Department of English
 Effective January 1, 2021

Michele Vialet, PhD

Professor Emerita
 College of Arts and Sciences
 Department of Romance and Arabic Languages
 And Literatures
 Effective January 1, 2021

Dean Reappointment

Lawrence Johnson, PhD

Dean
 College of Education, Criminal Justice and
 Human Services
 Effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024

Endowed Chair Appointments

Nishant Gupta, MD

The LAM Professorship in LAM Research
 College of Medicine
 Department of Internal Medicine
 Effective February 1, 2021

Ayman Mahdy, MD, PhD

R. Bruce and Barbara Bracken Endowed Chair in
 Surgical Urology
 College of Medicine
 Department of Surgery
 Effective January 1, 2021

Christy O'Dea, MD

Robert and Myfanwy Smith Chair
 College of Medicine
 Department of Family and Community Medicine
 Effective March 1, 2021

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Charuhas Thakar, MD

The Robert G. Luke, MD Endowed Chair in
Nephrology
College of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Effective February 1, 2021

Academic Unit Head Appointments

Iryna Topolyan, PhD

Unit Head
Lindner College of Business
Department of Economics
Effective January 1, 2021 – August 14, 2025

Academic Unit Head Reappointments

Elaine Hollensbe, PhD

Unit Head
Lindner College of Business
Department of Management
Effective August 15, 2021 – August 14, 2024

Karen Machleit, PhD

Unit Head
Lindner College of Business
Department of Marketing
Effective August 15, 2021 – August 14, 2024

New Faculty Appointments

Lori Harris

Assistant Dean of Libraries with Tenure
UC Libraries
Effective November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2025

Recommendations for Tenure or Promotion

From Associate Professor to Professor

College of Medicine

Biplab DasGupta	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Rhonda Szczesniak	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21

From Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

College of Medicine

Takanori Takebe	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
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From Instructor of Clinical to Assistant Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Sung Yang	Surgery	Effective 09/01/21
Alicia Caldwell	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21

From Assistant Professor – Educator to Associate Professor – Educator

Experience Based Learning and Career Education

Frederick Lutt	ELCE	Effective 09/01/20
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From Assistant Professor of Clinical to Associate Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Priya Gursahaney	Obstetrics & Gynecology	Effective 09/01/21
Jason St. Pierre	Obstetrics & Gynecology	Effective 09/01/21
Elizabeth Dale	Surgery	Effective 09/01/21
Jennifer Brady	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Heather Ciesielski	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
DonnaMaria Cortezzo	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Roohi Kharofa	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Sarah Lawson	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Ryan Moore	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Brian Turpin	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21

From Associate Professor of Clinical to Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Benjamin Kerrey	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Shelley Kirk	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Rebecca Marsh	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Kristin Melton	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Christine White	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21

From Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor

College of Medicine

Hitesh Deshmukh	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Bahram Namjou-Khales	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21

From Research Associate Professor to Research Professor

College of Medicine

Jennifer Kaplan	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
Bin Zhang	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21

From Field Service Associate Professor to Field Service Professor

College of Medicine

Kristine Justus	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
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From Instructor Educator to Assistant Professor Educator

College of Medicine

Matthew Zackoff	Pediatrics	Effective 02/23/21
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21.02.23.02 Approval of Remediation Report

Synopsis:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the attached Remediation Report in response to the mandate by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Section 3345.062 of the Ohio Revised Code requires that the Boards of Trustees of each state institution of higher education issue a report regarding the remediation of students.

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21.02.23.03 Approval of 2021 Distinguished Research Professor Award

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointments: Bonnie S. Fischer, PhD, School of Criminal Justice in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services and Kenneth E. Sherman, MD, PhD, Digestive Diseases in the College of Medicine as the 2021 Distinguished Research Professors.

21.02.23.04 Approval of 2021 Distinguished Teaching Professor Award

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointments: Jane Z. Sojka, PhD, in the Carl H. Lindner College of Business, for the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Professor Award.

21.02.23.05 Approval of New Fellows for the Academy of Fellows for Teaching and Learning

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the faculty identified for induction into the Academy of Fellows for Teaching & Learning. These recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

Vittoria Daiello, PhD

Associate Professor - School of Art
College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning

Patty Goedl, PhD

Associate Professor - Accounting
UC Clermont

Eric Gruenstein, PhD

Professor - Molecular Genetics
College of Medicine

Dana Harley, PhD

Associate Professor - School of Social Work
College of Allied Health Sciences

Marcus Johnson, PhD

Associate Professor - Educational Studies
College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

Alexandru Maries, PhD

Assistant Professor - Physics
College of Arts and Sciences

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Lindsey Mills, MS, RD, LD

Assistant Professor - Rehabilitation, Exercise and Nutrition
 College of Allied Health Sciences

Maria Ortiz, PhD

Associate Professor - Foreign Languages
 UC Blue Ash

Susan Watts-Taffe, PhD

Associate Professor - Language, Literature, Learning
 College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

21.02.23.06 Approval of New Undergraduate Degree – Bachelor of Arts, Dance – College-Conservatory of Music

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the new Bachelor of Arts in Dance in the College Conservatory of Music. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

21.02.23.07 Approval of New Undergraduate Degree – Associate of Science, Early Childhood Care and Education – UC Blue Ash

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the new Associate of Science in Early Childhood Care and Education at UC Blue Ash. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

21.02.23.08 Approval of New Undergraduate Degree – Associate of Individualized Study In Interdisciplinary Studies – UC Clermont

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the new Associate of Individualized Study in Interdisciplinary Studies at UC Clermont, in collaboration with UC Online. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

21.02.23.09 Approval of New Undergraduate Degree – Bachelor of Science, Cybersecurity Engineering – College of Engineering and Applied Science

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the new Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

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21.02.23.10 Approval of New Graduate Degree – PhD, Communication – College of Arts and Sciences

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the new PhD In Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

Finance and Administration Committee Recommendation

21.02.23.11 Approval of Block Lease Agreements to Support FY22 and FY23 Housing Demand

Synopsis: It is recommended the Board of Trustees approve and authorize two Block Lease Agreement renewals and one new Block Lease Agreement providing replacement housing capacity of 461 undergraduate beds and maintaining capacity of 272 undergraduate beds and 51 graduate units, respectively, for the next one to three academic years.

21.02.23.12 Approval of Local Administration Competency Certification Program

Synopsis: The Ohio Revised Code allows institutions of higher education to administer state-funded capital facilities projects without the supervision, control, or approval of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission so long as participation in Local Administration Competency Certification Program and related compliance with supporting Ohio Revised Code stipulations occur. It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the projects to be allocated for FY 21-22 biennium state funds and administered locally.

21.02.23.13 Approval of Acquisition of Shriners Hospital for Children-Cincinnati

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the acquisition of The Shriners Hospital for Children-Cincinnati located at 3229 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati.

21.02.23.14 Approval of Naming Request--Dr. Greer Glazer Endowed Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the name *Dr. Greer Glazer Endowed Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence*.

21.02.23.15 Approval of Naming Request--The Fredrick A. Marcotte Library

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the name *The Frederick A. Marcotte Library*.

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21.02.23.16 Approval of Naming Request--Trimble Technology Lab

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the names *DAAP Trimble Technology Lab* and *CEAS Trimble Technology Lab*.

Consideration of Action Items

Mr. Brown:

The full board has been present at the Committee Meetings held today and has received the recommendations of the Academic and Student Affairs and Finance and Administration Committees.

May I have a motion to approve all the recommended items put forth by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Finance and Administration Committee?

Upon a motion moved by Mrs. Valentine, a second by Ms. Turner, roll call vote was taken.

AYE: Ronald D. Brown; Kim Heiman; Margaret K. Valentine; Phil Collins; Thomas E. Mischell; J. Phillip Holloman; Monica Turner; Greg Hartmann

NAY: None

ABSENT: Geraldine B. Warner

Mr. Brown:

The motion passed and all items are approved. Thank you.

Unfinished Business and New Business

Mr. Brown:

Is there any unfinished business to come before the board? If not, I would like to move on to reports from the board of representatives. We will start with our graduate student trustee, Jack Cohen.

Graduate Student Report

Mr. Cohen:

Good Morning Everyone. A couple of sessions ago I spoke about how in parallel to the Envisioning Committee Report, the Graduate Student Government has also set up a committee to engage the student population on the topic. I am pleased to report that the initial fact-finding activities and surveys closed on January 29 and the information is being compiled now. We will share the results in detail in another rhythm, but I plan to share high level and interesting facts we are able to glean from that exercise next time we meet.

Taking a page from one of my mentors in the University, I have started a virtual rhythm after hours to meet students from across disciplines and give them a forum to share their story in a safe setting. I want to take some time today to talk about a story I heard since the last time we met which I think showcases the unique situation 2020 has put some students in and how they are finding ways to cope and continue pushing forward. I met a graduate student from the College-Conservatory of Music whose world had been turned upside down as she did not see how her performance degree was going to work in a world with so many out of work musicians and so many ensembles not able to perform for audiences. The student found great solace in the dual MA/MBA program the university offers to diversify her experience and secure optionality in her

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career immediately after graduation. This student has also been able to find a professional to talk to about her identity crisis and coping with all the sunken time and effort placed in the performance path she was chasing. Through the university, she was able to find peers sharing the same struggles while also finding ways to support each other. While she expressed that she will forever identify as an artist and a musician first, she recognized the flexibility of the University allowed her to explore options for her future without sacrificing her identity. She is eager to find out if her application for the dual program is approved.

With the Spring semester about halfway over, it is once again election time at the Graduate Student Government. The deadline for eager candidates to submit their letter of intent to run for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Campus Ambassador was due yesterday and I am pleased at the interest we saw. The candidates are now digging through the Graduate Student Government's constitution, by-laws, officer duties, and honorarium to prepare themselves for their address to the community next week on March 3rd. I want to thank Parik and Erin, President and Vice-President, Andrea, Treasurer, and Dominique, Campus Ambassador for their coaching and help while I was learning the ropes and for being a great team dedicated to improving the Graduate Student experience. I look forward to introducing the makeup of the next executive board by the next time we meet.

Thank you. This concludes my report.

Mr. Brown:

Thank you. The next report is the Faculty Senate report from Dr. Greg Loving.

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Loving:

Thank you, Chairman Brown, President Pinto, Trustees and guests. Since the last Board Meeting, Faculty Senate has seated its Ad Hoc Race

and Equity Committee, which has decided upon a Tri-Chair model, with each Chair responsible for a different area of activity. This collaborative leadership style is just one of the ways the committee intends to live out questioning of accepted power structures. Though they are now determining the exact scope of their activities, they have already begun participating in several different endeavors, including promoting racial awareness training for professors developed by A&S Psychology, reviewing equity training for those involved in the RPT Process, and collecting information on groups across the university working on equity issues. They hope to act as a connection point between the many efforts at our university to create a more equitable future.

At our January Senate meeting, we approved our Adjunct Faculty Report, which studies the needs of and best means to support Part Time Faculty. I did mention the key points of this document in my December report, so I will simply reiterate our top recommendation, based on the principle that faculty with similar credentials should receive similar pay for similar work. To this effect, we recommend that part time faculty compensation be set at 3% per credit hour of minimum full-time faculty pay. Though several colleges already pay part time faculty more than this, for most colleges this would be a substantial increase. If we are to attract and retain quality faculty dedicated to excellence in educating our students, however, it is essential that we work toward the goal of supporting them in a manner that matches their credentials and expertise. Our

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recommendations are being reviewed by the Council of Deans, who will then make recommendations to the Provost.

At our most recent Faculty Senate Meeting, we endorsed a proposal from the Calendar Committee to have a reading day coincide with Election Day in years of national election. This would make it easier for students to vote, given the difficulties they face due to often confusing regulations regarding their primary residence. Though many agree that it would benefit our society to adopt more widespread election reform, such as a national holiday on election day or multiple-day voting periods, this is a step we can take now to improve enfranchisement for a critical component of our university community.

And of course, it doesn't stop there. Coming issues include assisting the university in developing policies to conform to the Free Speech bill recently passed in Ohio, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act. Tied to this in a philosophical way is our development with the administration of a more specific intellectual property policy for teaching materials. After all, it is difficult to have an open and robust mind if someone else claims to own the ideas in it.

Lastly, I will end on a little thing. Before this meeting, I received an email from a student that was stuck in the CRC awaiting a COVID test and forgot her textbook. I sent some materials and told her don't worry about it and to get to when she can. So, I would just like to thank the students for bearing with this. They have been doing wonderfully, and all the staff are making the nuts and bolts of our situation really work. Thank you all.

Mr. Brown:

Thank you, Greg, for your report. Our next report is the Staff Senate report from Chris Collins.

Staff Senate Report

Ms. Collins:

Good morning Chairman Brown, fellow board members, President Pinto, and guests. This month, the Staff Senate is excited to announce the dates of the first annual Staff Professional Development Week, scheduled for March 1-5, in partnership with Human Resources, the Staff Success Center, and Be Well UC. As you may recall, this was initially conceived as a day-long program for university staff to enhance their professional and leadership skills and learn about the culture of the university. However, the Communications & Recognition Committee has moved the program to online delivery with the assistance of the IT Committee, and the sessions are being spread out over the first week in March to better accommodate remote and on-campus staff schedules. The Staff Senate would like to thank Bob Ambach and Tamie Grunow for their support of this initiative, and the Office of Equity, Inclusion & Community Impact for providing funds through the Equity & Inclusion Incentive Grant program. For more information or to register, staff can visit our site on Bearcats Landing.

I am also pleased to report progress on action items from the Staff Senate Cabinet's *Commitment to Anti-Racism Statement* that was issued in October of last year. The Staff Senate passed a recommendation in January to create a standing Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, and the Budget & HR and Governance Committees are preparing draft language to amend the Staff Senate Bylaws and to draft the new committee charge. Additionally, the Cabinet has completed two of three training sessions aimed at reducing barriers to equity and inclusion in the Staff Senate, and we are consulting with the Office of Equity, Inclusion & Community Impact to design training for the full Staff Senate later this year.

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The Remote Work Operations Advisory Committee, which is a joint effort between Staff Senate and Human Resources, also continues its work to reimagine what's next for remote staff work at UC. The committee has scheduled focus group sessions with senior university leadership in University Hall and is in the process of surveying University Hall staff about their experience with remote work as part of the case study. We look forward to sharing our findings in the coming months.

Lastly, the Membership & Elections Committee is preparing for this year's Staff Senate election, with nominations for staff senator set to open on March 15 through April 2. Last year we had a slight drop in the number of the nominations received, likely due to the pandemic, however this year we are hoping to see increased participation. Nominations may be made by any member of the university community, and all staff members not principally charged with teaching are eligible to run in the election, which will be held May 1 through May 14 this year.

Thank you, Chairman Brown. That concludes my report.

Mr. Brown:

Thank you, Chris. At this point in time, I'd like to call on the Student Government Report by Logan Lindsay.

Student Government Report

Mr. Lindsay:

Good Morning Chairman Brown, Board Members, President Pinto, Cabinet, and guests. To begin, I'm excited to share that in a collaboration with the Office of Research and Vice President Limbach, the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program has started and is now taking

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applications. This program will allow for undergraduate students to apply for financial assistance to combat expenses they encounter when performing research. Undergraduate Student Government is looking forward to how this new program can contribute to the university's Research 2030 strategic plan.

This past year, there was legislation passed at the state level that created an unnecessary barrier for on-campus students who wanted to update their voting address. As a result, Undergraduate and Graduate Student Government have been advocating for enhanced student voter accessibility by requesting federal election days to be a reading day. We've seen tremendous success in these efforts as we have received endorsements from Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Government, Faculty Senate, and the Academic Calendar Examination Committee. I hope that as this proposed calendar reaches this body, we see similar support from you all.

On Wednesday, it was announced that the Spring 2021 commencement would be virtual.  This decision has sparked much frustration from the student body. On December 15, the University of Cincinnati requested that 7,838 spectators be able to attend the  championship football game vs Tulsa. In a time when there was no vaccines, and the percentage of Ohioans with COVID was above 15%, the institution reassured the Governor that it could host this event and ensure the safety of our student athletes, coaches, and members of the Bearcat community. Currently, we are sitting at just over a 7 percent positivity rate and it projected that by the time we reach this graduation, 20 percent of all Americans will be vaccinated. When faced with the opportunity to send our graduating seniors off properly, with an event that would hold less attendance than that championship game, the University of Cincinnati has decided not to show that same level of commitment. I sit here in-front of you all today not only as the elected student representative, but

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one of thousands expecting to graduate this April. As a first-generation college student, receiving a degree in Engineering, I am an example of what it means to be Boldly Bearcat. I am one of many, each with their own unique and beautiful story, who want nothing less than to conclude our chapter by walking across that graduation stage. The message that is being sent is loud and clear, that the institution has not invested in this new wave of alumni, and when we all receive the call in a short few months asking, “Would you like to donate to the University of Cincinnati?,” this graduation class has made it clear they will fail to invest back.

Thank you, Chairman Brown. This concludes my report.

Mr. Brown:

Thank you, Logan for your comments and much for us to consider and think about. We appreciate you being bold and making those statements. Are there any questions or comments of Logan or any others?

Mr. Holloman:

Chairman Brown, will we have some additional discussion about the points that Logan made? Is that possible at this point in time?

Mr. Brown:

I believe it is possible and we should certainly consider his comments.

Dr. Nelson:

Chairman Brown, if I could just respond, I would like to thank Logan for his feedback,

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observations, and his comments. We assure the board that we will continue review and assess the situation, and we will find the best possible option we can always keeping the health and safety of all at top of mind. We will continue to assess and review, but thanks to Logan for his feedback.

Mr. Holloman:

Thank you, Dr. Nelson, and thank you, Logan.

Mr. Brown:

Thank you. Are there any other comments or questions? If not, I will now call for an Executive Session.

Executive Session

Mr. Brown:

The members of the Board will not return to conduct further business after Executive Session is concluded. Our next Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

May I have a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent litigation; and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes?

Upon a motion moved by Mrs. Valentine, a second by Mr. Mischell, roll call vote was taken.

AYE: Ronald D. Brown; Kim Heiman; Margaret K. Valentine; Phil Collins; Thomas E. Mischell; J. Phillip Holloman; Monica Turner; Greg Hartmann

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NAY: None

ABSENT: Geraldine B. Warner

Mr. Brown:

The motion passed. We will move into Executive Session. Thank you to all who attended the meeting today.

Adjournment of Executive Session

Mr. Brown:

There being no further business before the board, may I have a motion and a second to adjourn?

(A motion was moved by Mr. Mischell, second by Mrs. Valentine)

Mr. Brown:

Motion carries. Thank you very much. The meeting is adjourned.



RONALD D. BROWN
CHAIRPERSON



KIM HEIMAN
SECRETARY