

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Official Proceedings of the
Four Hundred and Seventeenth Meeting of the Board of Trustees
(A Regular Meeting)
October 28, 2025

The Four Hundred and Seventeenth Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 8:35 a.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, in the Digital Futures Building 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*.

Monica Turner, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Mrs. Turner asked that roll be called.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Monica Turner; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman; Gregory Hartmann (virtual); Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel (virtual); Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Neville G. Pinto, President;
Patrick Kowalski, Senior Vice President for
Administration and Finance;
John Weidner, Interim Provost and Senior Vice
President, Academic Affairs;
Lori Ross, General Counsel;
Greg Postel, Executive Vice President for Health
Affairs
Joseph Lampton, Graduate Trustee;
Riya Patel, Undergraduate Trustee;
Tamika Odum, Faculty Senate Chair;
Gregory Loving, Faculty Senate;
Everrett A. Smith, Faculty Senate;
Tracy Pritchard, University Staff Senate
Joshua Copley, Student Body President

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FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHT TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE

Nicole Blount, Executive Director of Board
Relations;
and the public

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 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 8:35 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

Mrs. Turner:

Good morning, everyone. I'm glad everybody was able to get here safe this morning. Welcome to the Four Hundred and Seventeen Meeting of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees. The meeting will come to order. To our students, faculty, staff, administration, and members of the community, thank you for attending today. Our board is grateful for the time, commitment, and continued dedication each of you bring to advancing the university's mission.

Trustees Gregory Hartmann and Steve Boymel will be attending virtually today. I believe they're on, so hello to everyone online.

We will now transition to President Pinto's report. President Pinto, would you please share your report?

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Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, everybody. Again, thank you for being here. We have passed the midpoint of the fall semester. It's hard to believe it's gone fast, and the last several weeks have been highlighted with celebrations. The UC Foundation and Alumni Association teamed up to deliver a series of enjoyable events for alumni and the rest of the UC community during Homecoming Week, which wrapped up this last Saturday. Thursday's Rieveschl Dinner included a special opportunity for our most loyal donors and Bearcat supporters. The week culminated with the Homecoming Parade and a win for our top 20 football team over Baylor. We also hosted an incredible family weekend earlier this month that drew more than 5,000 parents and siblings of our students to visit campus. My thanks to Nicole Mayo in Student Affairs for organizing such a successful event.

In late September, the President's Office hosted a Bright Beginnings Glow party. It was the first time we've done something like this, and this was the first-year students that allowed several hundred new Bearcats to come together under neon lights on Sigma Sigma Commons. It was quite a sight for an evening of fun. We also hosted hundreds of faculty and staff at Bearcat Commons during this year's Appreciation Lunch to thank them for their hard work serving students. Our success as a university is driven by their commitment to our students.

In my view, few things this semester have topped the grand reopening of the Old Chemistry Building. It was originally constructed in 1917 then expanded with a research edition in 1938. The building has now undergone an incredible transformation including the preservation of the historic 1921 Rookwood Fountain addition of display cases from UC's historic Chemistry Museum. Our planners tell me that one in every 200 graduate students will have a class in Old Chemistry over their academic career. The building hosts wonderful new collaborative spaces for

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three of our colleges: College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the James Winkle College of Pharmacy. I expect this building will serve us as a core educational and research facility for many decades in the future. My thanks to the state of Ohio which contributed \$17 million to this renovation project.

Last week the Portman Center for Policy Solutions hosted a panel discussion on the importance of bipartisanship. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear visited the campus to take part in the discussion that gained nationally on C-SPAN.

We held a ribbon cutting at the 1819 Innovation Hub with our partner Microsoft to celebrate an expansion of our relationship with the opening of the new AI Training Center on the fourth floor. This is yet another example of how we as a university are partnering to provide relevant educational opportunities for our UC community but also very importantly, for the businesses in our community. This, as you know, is a very important strategic goal for the University of Cincinnati to not just train the talent and discover knowledge but apply that talent and knowledge to ensure our community progresses well.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Staff Senate and Faculty Senate for inviting me to speak during their regular meetings this semester. Witnessing the efforts of so many volunteers who were actively engaged in shared governance is truly very encouraging.

I've provided a printed version of my report highlighting some of the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff since the last board meeting. I hope you will spend some time reviewing the report. I want to highlight one in particular. The College of Medicine in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center won a \$37.2 million award from the National Institute of Health for the Center for Clinical and Transformational Science and Training, which goes by the abbreviation CCTST.

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The grant renewal will allow the Center to continue its mission to improve research, host collaborations between scientists, and help ensure new treatments reach the community more quickly. My congratulations to Dr. Greg Postel and all involved in this vitally important work. This award combines federal and non-federal institutional support from UC and Cincinnati Children's to advance translational science with regional and national impact totaling over \$65 million in funding. Established in 2005 to support the future of science across the Academic Health Center, the CCTST has successfully secured funding since 2009. That is an amazing accomplishment.

Since its ascension, the CCTST scored more than 8,000 investigators and trainees serving as a central hub for accelerating clinical and translational science and research throughout the Cincinnati region and beyond. This grant is hugely beneficial in advancing our research agenda and also our efforts to build out the Cincinnati Innovation District.

The back page of the report includes a sampling of media exposure UC has received over the summer thanks mostly to our faculty experts whose research consistently makes worldwide headlines. Among the well-earned headlines is a Washington Post article about UC biomedical engineering researcher, Tom Talavage, whose concussion studies in our new Biosciences Center is contributing to a safer sports year. The board may recall that members of this research team presented their concussion findings during a previous board meeting in 2023.

This brings me to this morning's presentation on all that's happening in our 1819 Innovation Hub, and the presentation will be made by our Chief Innovation Officer, Dr. Ryan Hays.

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Presentation

[A copy of the Presentation is on file in the Office of the Board of Trustees]

Dr. Hays:

Thank you, President Pinto. Before I get started, I want to extend a special thanks to you, the Board of Trustees. Next year marks the ten-year anniversary of your original investment in the 1819 Innovation Hub. Everything you're about to see would not have been possible without your generosity and support, so thank you. I also want to thank President Pinto. It's your vision, leadership, and your support that encourages us to raise the bar every single year, so thank you for that, as well.

On the docket today, we have a video that I'll show you about the energy and excitement you see in the building every week. I'll run through a few slides about where we've been and where we're going, and then we'll end I think appropriately with the voice of the customer. One of our corporate partners will join us to say a few words about why they selected the 1819 Innovation Hub.

(Video Plays)

Dr. Hays:

That should give you a sense of the energy and excitement we see every week. We are often asked what is 1819? We typically talk about who we are, what we do, why we matter, and we say three things: We are UC's front door for industry and innovators, we are the headquarters for the Cincinnati Innovation District, and we move at the speed of need. We take our partners and introduce them to the full range of capabilities across campus.

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So how do we do that? How do we bring that vision to life? Honestly, it's the people. In this case it is our partners. On the screen you see all the logos of everyone we've packed into 1819. There are a lot of folks there. I'm especially pleased and thankful to many of our trustees as your companies are represented in 1819, so thank you for your support.

When you take those logos and translate them into categories, this is what it looks like by the numbers. We have seven Fortune 500 companies, five mid-tier companies, 18 startups, five venture funds, four accelerators, a 12,000 square foot mega space, which is one of the best in the state, and we have a 5,000 square foot e-sports lab, which again, is one of the best in the state.

When many of us at 1819 are talking to colleagues across the country, and when we attend conferences as part of associations, we are always keeping an ear out for what's happening in the nation. Based on our research we don't believe any other university in America has more innovation assets under one roof. Many have research parks, have many buildings, but under one roof we think we have the most assets. This is something to be proud of here at the University of Cincinnati.

I thought I'd talk a little bit about what the team's been up to. This last fiscal year, we set a number of records for the building, and probably one of the most important ones out of the gate was the number of visitors. Last year we welcomed over 27,000 visitors to the building. What makes that number impressive is the fact that no space in 1819 actually seats more than 150 people. Imagine how many of those events you have to do to get to that number. When you take our programming and spread it out over the course of the calendar, we're averaging almost three events a day in the building. That should give you a sense of the energy and the dynamism. Our Maker Space last year set a record with over 10,000 visits. Most were our students but some of our

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partners, especially our hardware companies, use the Maker Space as well. It is fully equipped, has a wood shop, a metal shop, and a bank of state of the art 3D printing. It is truly a sight to see.

Across the hall is our e-sports lab. Last year we set a record by welcoming over 5,700 gamers who were essentially our students. They typically game at night so if you're there during the day, you are probably not going to see them, so come on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night, and that place will be packed. Also, as part of that facility, we have a podcast studio and videos, as well. We've seen an 88 percent increase in that. Podcasts have become popular for our corporate partners. Then there is our learning lab, which is our internal consulting group. What that team does is work with all of our corporate partners in the building and ask them what their learning goals for the semester and year are. They build out customized programming, so workshops, retreats, whatever they need are facilitated at no cost to them as part of their membership at 1819. They've seen a 134 percent increase in their work. Last year they served 1,500 learners.

That is a little bit about where we were, and I'll say that most of those stats finished up on July 1. When you look at this first quarter of the new fiscal year, I'm delighted to say we're on track to break all those records this coming year. It, again, is a testament to the team at 1819. They are the best.

That is where we were and now to where we're going. We have a venture lab on our second floor. The best way to think about the venture lab is a student, faculty, staff, alum, or community member comes in with an idea on a napkin. We work with them on an 8 to 12 week boot camp to take that idea, turn it into a business plan, and ideally a strategy to launch. We have our standard accelerator in which we do five sessions over the course of the year, and we have 8 to 10 teams that run those sessions.

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In addition to our standard accelerator, just this year we introduced two specialty accelerators. One is around healthcare, and all the teams are working on health tech and med tech. That just launched this fall and will finish up next month. Then in January we'll launch the creative class accelerator designed for musicians, writers, artists, and designers in our community who are looking to take their hobby and turn it into a business. What we've known is that in our community we have accelerators that will serve general populations, but we don't have as many accelerators that serve special audiences. The creative class will be I think new to Cincinnati. Again, it's our effort to try to be more responsive to the entrepreneurs in our city.

In the spring, we hope to have a Robotics Summit. We have two new companies that moved into 1819 in the past few months and they are hardware companies, which is great because most of our partners up to that point had been software companies or CPG. The two robotics companies are excited to be at 1819. We're bringing them together with a lot of great robotics capability in the College of Engineering. John and Marty have built out an amazing cohort of faculty in robotics, so we are hoping to bring those folks together. In addition, we have a lively robotics club for our students. In the spring we will bring all that together and build out Cincinnati as a destination for robotics and advanced manufacturing.

Now I want to say a few words and end with Microsoft. Microsoft, as you may know, is one of the biggest and best companies in the world. Their market cap is 3.8 trillion. At present, Microsoft has only one dedicated innovation space on only one campus in the world. Guess where? Right here. Right here at the University of Cincinnati in the 1819 Innovation Hub. As President Pinto mentioned, we cut the ribbon last week on their space on the fourth floor. They also have space on the second floor and then they're going to do some innovative digital planning and we're truly at this point one of one.

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I thought today we'd hear from the voice of the customer. We have one of Microsoft's leaders who happens to also be a very proud and dedicated Bearcat. Chris, if you wouldn't mind, please say a few words about the partnership.

Mr. Carper:

I want to also say thank you to the board and President Pinto, for your vision and leadership, and thank you to Ryan and the team. As Ryan mentioned, we have a commitment to the community, we have a commitment to our local partners, and a commitment to our shareholders. The reason we chose 1819 is because there is an opportunity. The university is in such a great position now with the tying enrollments and with the gap we have in skills for AI today to be a leader in this space.

From my perspective as a former Bearcat, and a fan of 1819, I was able to talk to my leadership team and bring them together, bring them here, and see the value that this facility offers. As we mentioned, there is the venture space, but there's more than just the venture and the partners that are there. It's the impact on the community. It's the impact we can have in three key pillars. The first one is community. Taking the underserved, taking groups that are from outside and bringing them in and teaching them AI. The second pillar is commercial. You have a lot of great partnerships and a lot of great opportunities for more partnerships here at the university and within 1819. We want to be able to train those partners and close the skills gap for them and up-skill their employees. The last one is the university, faculty, staff, and students. If you think about education and where the skills are trained, it's right here at the University of Cincinnati. There's no better place to train the latest and greatest technologies than right here at the university. Its fully functional staff and students are eager to learn the technology. In fact, over 80 percent of students

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are already using AI even though it's not in their curriculum. So, there is a huge opportunity for us to embrace that and educate the students, faculty, and staff, and ramp that quickly to address the skills gap we see especially with the rapid base of technology.

I'd like to say thank you again. We're excited to be here and excited for the opportunities to train more people. We're expected to train 3,000 people this year through the facility. I couldn't be more excited to be here and more excited to have Microsoft here.

Again, I thank everyone for the opportunity. [Applause]

Dr. Hays:

Are there any questions? Thank you, President Pinto.

Dr. Pinto:

Before you leave, Ryan, you brought up the founding date for this, and I just want to remind folks and the board what happened between that date and today. It was a little thing called COVID. It happened, I think, six days after we opened the facility and as all of you know, the Innovation Hub is based on the concept of people being there, interacting with each other, and so we essentially had an empty building. We had a few tenants but an empty building. It has taken a lot of leadership and a lot of great hard work to get people to understand the advantages of being in the 1819 building, so I want to commend you. I think we have a sense for what the vibrancy is like in that building now, and it wasn't an easy goal to achieve. Thank you for your leadership and thank you for the hard work you and your team put into this.

Thank you, Madam Chair. That concludes my report.

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Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, President Pinto. On behalf of the entire board, I'd like to also thank Ryan and your team and what you're doing at 1819. But importantly, I'd like to thank Microsoft for choosing the University of Cincinnati. We appreciate what you will do to transform as you indicated both the community, the students, and leveraging our outstanding faculty and staff here.

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, Finance and Administration Committee, Audit and Risk Management Committee, and Governance and Internal Affairs Committee began at 8:55 am and concluded at 9:15 am.

Mrs. Turner:

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 was convened at 9:15 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

Mrs. Turner:

Are there any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve the August 26, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes?

(Upon a motion moved by Mr. Byrne, and seconded by Mrs. McGruder, a roll call vote was taken)

AYE: Monica Turner; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman; Gregory Hartmann(virtual); Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel (virtual); Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you. The Minutes are approved.

Additional Action Item

Mrs. Turner:

Our next recommendation is the approval of an honorary degree. President Pinto, will you comment on this recommendation?

Dr. Pinto:

With pleasure, Chair Turner. It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Phil Collins for an honorary degree from the University of Cincinnati. Phil is well known as the Founder and CEO of Orchard Holdings Group, a successful private equity firm. He served nine years as University

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of Cincinnati trustee including two years as Board Chair in 2023 and 2024. He also contributed significantly as a UC Foundation board member from 2010 to 2024. That's a total of 14 years.

Phil graduated summa cum laude from the University of Cincinnati in 1989 and served as Student Body President. As a dedicated alumnus and multigenerational Bearcat, he co-chaired the UC Bicentennial Commission and currently serves on the UC Health Board of Directors strengthening ties between UC and UC Health.

Mr. Collins is a recipient of multiple university honors including UC Foundation Chairman's Award, the Lindner College of Business Distinguished Service Award, and the UC Alumni Association Robert E. Dobbs Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife Lela have established key endowments such as the Portman Center for Policy Solutions Fund and the Phil and Lela Collins Family Fund for Lindner's Honors Plus students fostering academic excellence in philanthropy since 1995. They are also dedicated supporters of UC Athletics.

Phil's outstanding service to his alma mater reflects the generosity and excellence that defines our alumni community and truly warrants distinction with an honorary doctorate.

Thank you for considering his nomination.

Approval of the Items Recommended by the Board Committees

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you. It is now time to vote on all the items. The full board has been present at the committee meetings held today and has received the recommendations of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Governance and Internal Affairs Committee, and the Non-Committee Item.

May I now have a motion to approve all the recommended items?

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(Upon a motion moved by Mr. Brown, and a second by Mr. Sheakley, a roll call vote was taken.)

AYE: Monica Turner; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman;
 Gregory Hartmann(virtual); Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis;
 Steve Boymel(virtual); Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you. These items 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, Finance and Administration Committee, and Governance and Internal Affairs Committee, at their respective meetings and non-committee recommendations, today, October 28, 2025:

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

25.10.28.01 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

Robert Cohen, MD

Professor Emeritus College of Medicine
 Department of Internal Medicine
 Effective September 1, 2025

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Peter Margolis, MD, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics Effective September 1, 2025
Anil Menon, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Effective September 1, 2025
Paul Samuels, MD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology Effective October 1, 2025
Jo Ann Thompson, EdD	Associate Professor Emerita UC Clermont College Department of English, Languages and Fine Arts Effective September 1, 2025

Endowed Chair / Professorship Appointments

Stuart Bertsch, MD, MBA	The William E. Hurford, MD, Endowed Chair In Anesthesiology College of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology Effective August 11, 2025 – August 31, 2030
Bradley Boehmke, PhD	Joseph S. Stern Professorship of Practice Lindner College of Business Department of Operations, Business Analytics and Information Systems Effective August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2026
Reena Shah, MD	The Albert Barnes Voorheis Professorship College of Medicine Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine Effective July 5, 2025 – August 31, 2030

Unit Head Appointments

Erik Alanson, PhD	Unit Head College of Cooperative Education and Professional Studies Department of Information Technology Co-op Effective August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2030
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From Associate Professor of Clinical to Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Michelle Eckerle	Pediatrics	Effective 10/28/25
Laurie Johnson	Pediatrics	Effective 10/28/25

From Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor

College of Medicine

Sandra Andorf	Pediatrics	Effective 10/28/25
John Erickson	Pediatrics	Effective 10/28/25
Krishna Roskin	Pediatrics	Effective 10/28/25

25.10.28.02 Approval of Faculty Tenure Policy Revisions

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to University Policy 16.23, Faculty Tenure. The proposed revisions have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

25.10.28.03 Approval of Faculty Workload Policy Revisions

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to University Policy 16.27, Faculty Workload. The proposed revisions have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

25.10.28.04 Approval of Faculty Retrenchment Policy Revisions

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to University Policy 16.26, Faculty Retrenchment. The proposed revisions have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

25.10.28.05 Approval of Post-Tenure Review Policy Revisions

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to University Policy 16.28, Faculty Post-Tenure Review. The proposed revisions have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

25.10.28.06 Approval of Faculty Appeals Policy

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Faculty Appeals Policy 17.02. The policy has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

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B. Finance and Administration Committee

25.10.28.07 Approval of Dynegy Electric Purchase Agreement 2026-2028 for Uptown Campus

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a new electric supply contract to be entered into between the University of Cincinnati and Dynegy Energy Services East for the Uptown Campus.

25.10.28.08 Approval of Engie Electric Purchase Agreement 2026- 2028 for Regional Campuses and Satellite Buildings

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a new electric supply contract to be entered into between the University of Cincinnati and Engie Resources for the Regional Campuses and Satellite Buildings.

25.10.28.09 Approval of YMCA Renovations for “The Why”

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a funding request of \$5,000,000 for the completion of all design and pre-construction services required for the renovation of YMCA.

25.10.28.10 Approval of Naming Relocation: Anthony J. Perzigian Conference Room – 5th Floor University Pavilion

Synopsis: It is recommended that the UC Board of Trustees approve the relocation of the name *Anthony J. Perzigian Conference Room*.

25.10.28.11 Approval of Naming Relocation: Lynn M. Barber Conference Room – 4th Floor University Pavilion

Synopsis: It is recommended that the UC Board of Trustees approve the relocation of the name *Lynn M. Barber Conference Room*.

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C. Audit and Risk Management Committee

25.10.28.12 Approval of the University's 2025 Audited Financial Statements

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees accept the University's Financial Statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and Independent Auditor's Report. This action will be effective when the Ohio Auditor of State's Office completes their review and acceptance of the report.

D. Governance and Internal Affairs Committee

25.10.28.13 Approval of Board Rule 10-30-02: Research: Publication Restrictions in Sponsored Research

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize the replacement of Board Rule 10-30-02 with new Board Rule 10-30-02 to bring the rule into alignment with revisions to federal regulations and move processes and procedures to a policy.

E. Non-Committee Items

25.10.28.14 Approval of Honorary Degree

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an Honorary Degree for Phil D. Collins.

Unfinished Business and New Business

Mrs. Turner:

We are now moving on to the reports of the board representatives. We start with the Graduate Student Report by Joseph Lampton.

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Graduate Student Report

Mr. Lampton:

Thank you and good morning, Chair Turner, President Pinto, board members, board representatives, and all of our guests. It's great to see everyone again following a wonderful Homecoming weekend. It was well attended and capped off by the Bearcats taking down Baylor.

At the April board meeting, I congratulated UC graduate student Alex Sprague from the Epidemiology MD-PhD program for winning UC's three-minute thesis competition and placing second in the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools region round.

I'm pleased to share this December Alex will be representing UC at the Counsel of Graduate Students' annual three-minute thesis contest where he will be the first Bearcat to have advanced to the national stage. His research broadly focuses on specific methods to detect throat and mouth cancer at earlier stages. Hopefully, at our December board meeting, I'll be able to share good news on Alex's behalf.

Additionally, in September I had the opportunity to attend the annual Ohio Trustee Conference, which included a range of viewpoints on higher education policy and leadership. This experience provided insight into statewide priorities and how different governance approaches are being communicated and implemented while navigating the evolving policies.

Additionally, earlier this month UC held the Annual Family Weekend, which had over 5,000 family members in attendance. Under the leadership of Dr. Whitney White, the weekend created valuable opportunities for the families to connect with campus life. These moments of connection help continue to nurture a compassionate campus culture while reinforcing the bond between the campus and the community we serve.

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The Graduate College has been continually supporting graduate students and post-docs by facilitating workshops each month and assisting graduate student development. These workshops have been led by Brandilyn Pham and Catie Norrie, are open to all graduate students, and range from writing support to CV development. Attendance for these workshops has continuously grown with over 100 different graduate students from over 40 different programs across campus participating this year.

Finally, looking ahead to the remainder of the semester, my goal is to continue to immerse myself throughout the UC community to ensure I'm able to hear from as many voices as possible. These efforts have been an ongoing process, and I'll continue exploring ways to further develop and enhance my role for maximum impact. I'm grateful for the support I've been given from campus leaders and remain mindful of opportunities to continue growing within my role. Through collaboration across campus, I'll continue learning how to strengthen the graduate student experience to ensure our work is meaningful and impactful.

This concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, Joseph. We will now have the Undergraduate Student Report by Riya Patel.

Undergraduate Student Report

Ms. Patel:

Hello, members of the board, President Pinto, cabinet members, and guests. It is a privilege to share several updates that highlight our continued growth and impact as a university community. The University of Cincinnati continues to distinguish itself as a national leader in cooperative

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education. For the past several years, our co-op and internship programs have ranked among the top five in the nation and most recently recognized as number four nationally by U.S. News and World Report. This distinction places UC ahead of several prestigious institutions including Stanford, Georgetown, Duke, and Cornell. The achievement speaks to our university's enduring commitment to experiential learning. This recognition reflects the transformative impact of UC's hands-on approach. Through cooperative internships, students can apply classroom knowledge in real world settings working alongside professionals who mentor and challenge them to grow.

These programs bridge the gap between academic content and industry practice offering paid experience and vital career readiness skills. For students whose goals extend beyond traditional co-op, UC provides alternative experiential learning opportunities ensuring every Bearcat can gain a meaningful career building experience. With continued leadership and dedication from our faculty, staff, and administration, I'm confident UC will continue to set the national standard in cooperative education.

Looking beyond UC's achievements, I also attended the Ohio Trustees Conference where trustees and university representatives from across Ohio gathered to discuss emerging trends in higher education. The event opened with a keynote from Governor Mike DeWine and the afternoon addressed by Lieutenant Governor Tressel both emphasizing the evolving challenges and opportunities facing higher education in Ohio. Throughout the day discussions centered around how trustees can guide institutions to adapt strategically amid increased competitiveness and narrowing revenue margins. Attendees participated in breakout sessions that explored key governance topics including an innovative program review led by Youngstown State University. It detailed a review of Senate Bill 1 presented by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and an

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analysis of the institutional spending patterns hosted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

A notable and at times contentious discussion centered around the state's approach to aligning higher education programs with the workforce demands. Speakers underscored the importance of prioritizing academic programs that demonstrate strong employment outcomes and returns on investment for students and the state. This included commentary on reassessing lower enrollment and less workforce oriented majors signaling a broader shift towards data informed program evaluation.

Finally, in the spirit of community, UC came together for Homecoming week, which took place October 22 - 25 on the theme Bearcats for life. The celebration highlighted the lifelong connection and pride that defines the Bearcat experience. This week's festivities included Bearcats in the City and James P. Kelly Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on October 24 at Fifth Third Arena. Together these events honored the traditions and achievements that united generations of Bearcats.

Thank you, Chairwoman Turner. This concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, Riya. We will now have the Faculty Senate Report by Tamika Odum.

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Odum:

Thank you, Chair Turner, President Pinto, board members, and guests for this opportunity to give a report on behalf of the university Faculty and Faculty Senate. My report this morning is

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filled with pragmatic optimism as we continue our work to strengthen the trust, accountability, and collaboration across the university. Faculty Senate remains deeply engaged in ensuring shared governance is not just an ideal but a living practice, one that reflects our collective commitment to the academic mission of the University of Cincinnati.

At our September meeting, President Pinto joined us and shared remarks focused on university priorities, enrollment, and the year ahead. Bryan Smith from the Center for Excellence and Teaching and Learning led a thoughtful discussion on teaching in the classroom in the wake of Ohio's Advancing Higher Education Act. The discussion centered on balancing compliance with the preservation of academic freedom.

During our October meeting, we continued to center our discussion on faculty voice in university policy development, and we worked closely with the Provost's Office policy development team to update policies, and we voted on final versions of policies related to the academic mission of the university. Post-tenure review, retrenchment, tenure, workload all passed with strong support between 82 and 95 percent of faculty in favor. However, the Faculty Appeals Report or Policy received only 41 percent support with 55 percent opposed and 5 percent abstaining. Faculty expressed concern about the proposed five-day timeline for appeals and requested clarification to the appeals form allowing flexibility around changing grounds for appeals when warranted. Though this change request came after the board submission deadline and was denied, we were assured the process is iterative and that revisions could be revisited before the December Board of Trustees meeting. I remain hopeful this small but meaningful change will be considered and approved reflecting shared governance and practice.

While full consensus was not achieved, the collaborative process itself represents a maturing system of governance, one grounded in transparency, efficiency, and respect. Senate

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will continue to work with the policy development team to strengthen the appeals and workload policies.

Beyond policy work, we are expanding collaboration across governing bodies. The Collaborative Governance Coalition, which includes leadership from faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate student governments, and a graduate student trustee will host a spring resource fair titled *Stronger Together, Evolve and Elevate*. This event aims to foster a culture of care by connecting faculty, staff, and students with resources that support their holistic well-being and mind-body balance.

In addition, in partnership with the graduate student Trustee Joseph Lampton, we hope to launch the What's Your Why Initiative encouraging the UC community to reflect on the purpose and passion driving their work. Through shared stories of faculty and student mentorship, we aim to deepen belonging and shared purpose across campus.

Finally, we held our first strategic vision session with President Pinto and Interim Provost Weidner. Our focus was commitment to shared governance. We examined how to ensure faculty voices are meaningful and included early in the decision making process so that outcomes reflect our shared values. The conversation was candid yet constructive leaving both faculty and administrators with a renewed clarity and purpose on what's ahead. We are looking forward to our next meeting in December to discuss transparency and communication.

Faculty Senate is approaching the academic year as reflective stewards committed to purposeful action, and effective governance. We move forward with optimism, grounded in knowing that progress is built through patience, participation, and persistence. Every collaborative step brings us closer to our shared vision of a stronger UC and reaffirms a simple truth. Progress is most powerful when we move as one. We're stronger together.

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Thank you and that concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, Dr. Odum. We will now have the Staff Senate Report by Tracy Pritchard.

Staff Senate Report

Dr. Pritchard:

Thank you, Chair Turner, members of the board, President Pinto and guests. I'm pleased to present the report on behalf of Staff Senate. Since the last board meeting, Staff Senate held its first official meeting in the academic year on September 3. As was shared, President Pinto was our invited speaker to kick off the year sharing an overview of the state of the university highlighting the successes and growth the university achieved on several levels. Importantly, President Pinto described challenges higher education is facing, national and regional trends, and connecting the strategic positioning of our university to the contributions of staff and faculty on the current and future successes of our students, university, and community both local to global. This was a launching point for the strategic visioning of Staff Senate that we'll be embarking on this year.

Staff Senate also met on October 1 welcoming the Office of University Ombuds and Office of Human Resources. Jivanto van Hemert introduced the services of the Office of the University Ombuds with several follow-up questions from staff on different ways they can engage with the office and utilize their zero-barrier conflict navigation resources. The Office of Human Resources team led by Senior Associate VP Heather Cox had many exciting updates to share including the HR file transformation project, a new benefit system we'll be launching called Plan Source, an

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upcoming annual enrollment in November, UC BE Well employee wellness offerings, and undated recruitment and onboarding modules and success factors.

All these updates are employee centered and designed to improve the user experience of our HR systems. At this meeting a status update on the job architecture project was provided by HR. The compensation philosophy framework was shared along with job application career bands levels and criteria. The job architecture project is of very high interest for staff as they anxiously await the next steps for implementation of the new compensation and career path structure.

Lastly, our Staff Senate Cabinet held a retreat yesterday to conduct strategic planning and alignment with the vision and priorities we received from both President Pinto and Interim Provost Weidner. I look forward to sharing strategic goals of our Staff Senate at the December board meeting.

This concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you very much, Tracy. We have one more report, which is the Student Government Report by Joshua Copley.

Student Government Report

Mr. Copley:

Good morning, board members, President Pinto. It's hard to believe we're halfway through the 2025 fall semester. I'm excited to share with you an update on initiatives and events the undergraduate student government has led in support.

This past week we joined countless student organizations and departments in celebrating Homecoming week. We were proud to help fund the Graeter's Ice Cream event which brought

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Bearcats together for free ice cream. Walking through campus, you feel the energy and Bearcat pride that really makes this week so special. Homecoming continues to be one of the most unifying times of the year and one of the many reasons I'm proud to be a Bearcat.

Beyond Homecoming we recently hosted our Annual Off-Campus Housing Fair, one of our impactful events for Bearcats preparing to move into the community. We had many students walk through and see the options available to them. In addition, our off-campus living guide is about to be completed. Once final reviews are complete with campus and city partners, we plan to publish an online version and print physical copies that will be available to everyone.

The Senate continues to remain active, passing several significant pieces of legislation. A bill introduced by our Election Facilitation Community Chair will ensure spring elections runs smoothly. We also passed multiple student advocacy legislation ensuring students feel heard on campus.

Our commitment to shared governance continued this year with the passing of our Collaborative Governance Bill. This was passed last year but now is officially built into our bylaws encouraging lasting relationships among all the governing bodies on campus.

Senate also approved several funding bills to enhance student engagement, including support for Fall Ball, a major Homecoming tradition. Other bills passed included two budget bills that will ensure our organization and our college tribunals are prepared to support student engagement.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege with four other student government members to represent our university at the Big 12 Student Government Conference hosted by West Virginia University. This experience allowed us to connect with peers across the conference. During this

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time, we discussed what worked and what didn't. We also discussed new strategies to strengthen advocacy and student engagement on our respective campuses.

This semester has been a powerful reminder of what Bearcat culture looks like. It's about diversity, unity, and excitement, which are values that push our university forward. As we look ahead, the undergraduate student government remains committed to the advocacy and inclusion of all members of campus community including our amazing staff, faculty, and students. Together we'll continue to uphold the values that make the University of Cincinnati one of the best places to be.

Thank you and this concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, Joshua. Next, we will have a public comment from Tom Hagedorn.

Public Comment

Mr. Hagedorn:

Thank you for this opportunity. I'm Tom Hagedorn. I have a Bachelor of Science and MBA from UC and have been a contributor to the UC Foundation in years past. I wanted to, first of all, appreciate all the incredible work that the staff and board has obviously been doing in their service to the university. I'm appearing here today because I'm concerned about UC's compliance with the Ohio Senate Bill 1, the USD Department of Education Dear Colleague letter, and various actions by President Trump, which appear to have many overlapping goals. I've also given a written statement about this topic to the Audit and Risk committee, and I have a copy of this available, if you would like it.

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I'm very concerned about UC's compliance because it appears to require an 180 degree turn from prior practices for most universities including UC. I read an article in the Wall Street Journal that suggested there were back panel discussions among some universities on how to fame compliance while continuing business as usual. I'm determined to see what I can do to see this doesn't happen at UC in a small way. I trust that the board and administration are on my side when it comes to full compliance, especially with Ohio law. I've read summaries of SB1 and parts of the UC web site that relate to it. While there are many other important provisions of SB1 and the federal initiatives, diversity, equity, inclusion, the DEI provisions are my concern today.

My perception is that you likely have some deans, department heads, and faculty who are very unhappy with these provisions. It would not surprise me if there were not a lot of resistance to these seemingly tectonic changes. It appears to me it will take a herculean effort to overcome that resistance. My concern here is that it may require much close supervision and auditing to ensure compliance. For example, I'm convinced if SB1's provisions had been in place at this time last year, UC would have been in noncompliance in many ways. I point to reports of just two civil rights organizations concerning UC. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression gave UC an overall grade of D minus. According to them, there are shocking percentages of students who approve of heckling and using violence against speakers that they disagree with and of frequent self-censorship. That was approximately 41 or 37 percent of students who said they did at least monthly.

Do No Harm is a group that seeks to work to keep identity politics out of education, medical research, and clinical practice. A search of their web site opened several negative mentions of the UC College of Medicine related to DEI. The most recent was an oath required to be recited by students at its Honors Day celebration this May.

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Further, is the university following the spirit of the 2023 Supreme Court decision dealing with racial discrimination and college admissions? SB1 seems to be going directly at that. Also like most universities, it's very unlikely UC has an intellectually diverse faculty. Many studies have been done in the political affiliation of faculties across the nation. Studies always show a tiny number of registered republicans especially in education, humanities, and social sciences. Since part of the idea is strongly associated with hot button political cultural and social issues, a low number of republicans on one's faculty points to the likelihood of a lack of viewpoint diversity and perhaps hints at some of the self-censorship that's going on by students.

Going forward, I plan to reach out to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, State Auditor's Office, Ohio Senator Gerry Cirino, and the Department of Education to see what they expect to see in terms of compliance from UC and express to them areas of concern I have simply from looking at UC's web site and some of the communications from it. I will be glad to talk to anyone at any time about this.

Thanks for this opportunity, and I wish you God speed in your mission. Thank you.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, Mr. Hagedorn. Our next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. There being no further business before the board, may I have a motion and a second to adjourn?

(Upon a motion moved by Mr. Holloman, and a second by Mr. Byrne, a roll call vote was taken.)

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AYE: Monica Turner; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman; Gregory Hartmann (virtual); Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel (virtual); Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Mrs. Turner:

Motion carries. Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

MONICA TURNER
CHAIRPERSON

JILL MCGRUDER
SECRETARY