

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Official Proceedings of the

Four Hundred and Nineteenth Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(A Regular Meeting)

February 24, 2026

The Four Hundred and Nineteenth Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 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*.

Gregory P. Hartmann, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Mr. Hartmann asked that roll be called.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gregory Hartmann; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne; Pradeep Bekal

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Sheakley

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;
Everett A. Smith, Faculty Senate;
Tracy Pritchard, University Staff Senate

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY TWENTY-FOUR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX

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 8:31 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

Mr. Hartmann:

Welcome and good morning. Trustee Larry Sheakley will not be in attendance today.

I'd like to begin by welcoming a new face to this table, and that is our newest Trustee Dr. Pradeep Bekal, who was recently appointed to a 6-year term by Governor Mike DeWine.

Dr. Bekal (Baykel) is a board-certified gastroenterologist, a board member and senior vice president of clinical affairs for Ohio at Gastro Health, one of the nation's largest gastroenterology groups. He graduated from Madras Medical College in Madras, India, completed his residency in internal medicine at New York - Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn and completed two fellowships at Brooklyn Hospital Medical Center and Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. Trustee Pradeep Bekal will be appointed to the Academic & Student Affairs Committee. Please join me in welcoming Pradeep Bekal. *[Applause]*

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Considering today is my first official meeting as our elected Chair, allow me to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members. I am honored by the trust you have placed in me, and I embrace this responsibility with deep appreciation. Together with President Pinto, his team and the many dedicated faculty and staff who represent the University of Cincinnati, our charge remains the same — to enable transformative experiences that will benefit UC students, the Cincinnati region and beyond for years to come.

Speaking of President Pinto, I'd like to acknowledge and congratulate you on celebrating your 9th anniversary leading this university on February 20. This institution has enjoyed an incredible trajectory under your leadership, and I look forward to partnering with you to continue the work.

That brings us to the president's report. President Pinto, will you please share your report?

Dr. Pinto:

Good morning, everybody. Thank you, Chair Hartmann. Let me just formally congratulate you, Greg, on your appointment as chair of this board. You have been a dedicated and committed public servant for most of your career and an outstanding advocate for the University of Cincinnati since you were appointed to the board. It gives me immense confidence knowing someone with your remarkable leadership experience will guide us as we chart the course ahead.

In addition, I'd like to add my welcome and congratulations to Trustee Pradeep Bekal. As Chair Hartmann mentioned, Dr. Bekal is a very renowned physician and a physician leader, and he brings an important perspective, particularly in the intersection of education, research, and health innovations. Thank you for being part of this board.

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Friday last week, February 20, marked eight years since we launched Next Lives Here, our strategic direction. This strategic framework has enabled us to focus and align on prioritizing student success and access, supporting faculty research and creativity, and driving innovation across all areas of our institution. Progress in these areas is foundational to our aspirations to be a leading urban public university in this nation. Under the guidance and members of this board, the leadership of those in this room along with our faculty and staff, we have made tremendous strides towards realizing our vision. This past fall we hit a record enrollment of 53,682. An increase of nearly 20 percent in our enrollment since we launched Next Lives Here. And the good news is that student demand for educational programs continues to be strong.

In December, on decision day, our enrollment management team reported that our fall applications for first-year students exceeded 35,000. This is a 15 percent increase over the previous year. We also recently learned our sponsored research awards reached 346 million dollars in the latest fiscal year. This is a 23 million dollar increase from the previous year, and a tremendous accomplishment led by our faculty investigators, particularly given the current challenges with federal research funding.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining many of our dedicated UC donors in Naples, Florida during a special alumni gathering. My thanks to Richard Bundy and Jen Heisey for organizing the event. Also, my thanks to Dr. Greg Postel, executive vice-president for health affairs for joining me on the trip. Dr. Postel shared encouraging news not only about the College of Medicine where he serves as dean, but he also announced the recruitment of Dr. Guis as the new director of the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. Dr. Guis comes to us from the Mays Cancer Center at the University of Texas Health in San Antonio, which is also part of the MD cancer center. This has been an NCI designated center since 1991. Dr. Guis serves as an associate director for translational

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research at the center and will lead us in our pursuit of NCI designation, which is an important goal for our Next Lives Here strategic direction.

It is now my distinct pleasure to briefly introduce the faculty who are recommended to our board at this meeting for distinguished professor titles. Board members, you'll be voting on them later, but I would like to take this opportunity to recognize their accomplishments. First, I will start with Dr. Sarah Stitzlein. She's a professor of educational studies at the University of Cincinnati in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services. She is being recommended for recognition as a distinguished research professor in arts, humanities, and the social sciences.

Dr. Stitzlein is a world-renowned scholar in education research and philosophy with international recognition for her work on democracy, citizenship, and civic education. After publishing her fifth book titled, *Teaching Honesty in a Populace Era Emphasizing Truth and Education of Citizens*, she was invited to give keynotes across Scotland, England, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain. Her book received multiple major honors including the John Dewey society outstanding achievement award, the North American association for philosophy and education book award, and the George Orwell award. Dr. Stitzlein, will you please stand to be recognized here. (*Applause*)

Next let me tell you about Dr. Christy Holland. She is a professor in the department of internal medicine, cardiovascular health and disease and biomedical engineering in the College of Medicine. She is being recommended for recognition as a distinguished research professor in STEM. Dr. Holland leads an innovation research program focused on ultrasound mediated thrombolysis and targeted drug and gene delivery. She is the author of over 130 peer-reviewed publications, delivered 136 invited lectures, and plenary talks internationally, and holds 11 U.S.

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and international patents. She has received numerous honors in her field including being elected to the fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, and American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. Dr. Holland, will you please stand to be recognized. *(Applause)*

Finally, Dr. Craig Froehle. He is a professor in the Department of Operations Business Analytics and Information Systems in the Carl H. Lindner College of Business. He is being recommended for recognition as a distinguished teaching professor. Dr. Froehle has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to teaching excellence and innovation since joining Lindner College of Business in 2001. He developed “Emergency!,” a simulation game now used in leading business schools across North America, and this innovation earned him the Wickham Skinner Teaching Innovation award. He has designed new courses including “Generative AI and the Future of Work,” and is recognized for accessible teaching practices that students consistently describe as engaging and transformative. Dr. Froehle, will you please stand to be recognized. *(Applause)*

I want to thank all three of you for being here today, and I would like to offer my personal congratulations to you as outstanding members of our faculty. Your efforts to drive our research agenda and your dedication to pedagogy is truly inspiring. Thank you for being here and serving our students with such passion and resolve throughout your distinguished careers. These recipients will formally be recognized as part of our annual all-university faculty awards on April 16.

Finally, I have provided a printed version of my report highlighting some of the accomplishments since the board's last meeting. Again, in the interest of time, I will mention just a few. In January UC launched the Bearcats affordability grant. The new grant will provide a pathway to tuition-free college for students and families who make less than \$75,000 per year.

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Beginning in the fall of 2026, the grant will cover the remaining cost of tuition of Ohio residents who are Pell eligible. This is a tremendous step forward in addressing college access and affordability for Ohio residents and is strongly aligned with our goals of Next Lives Here.

I also want to mention two significant gifts that we have received since the last meeting. We received a \$10 million estate gift from the Alpaugh foundation that will support the Alpaugh Family Economic Center at the University of Cincinnati. And we received a \$3 million gift from the estate of Barry Mitchell, an '82 graduate from College of Engineering and Applied Science, but his gift goes to support UC's College of Conservatory of Music. This type of giving from alumni and donors is truly transformational and allows us to deliver on our promises to our students and the next generations of leaders in our society.

On the back side of this report, you will see examples of some of the impressive media mentions for our university. As one example, the Cincinnati Business Courier highlighted a partnership between UC and GE Aerospace Foundation to introduce students to careers in engineering. The foundation extended its partnership with UC for Next Engineers through 2035. Since launching Next Engineers in 2021, GE has awarded \$1.4 million in scholarships to qualifying graduates in Cincinnati.

And now it's my pleasure to introduce to you Taylor Allgood. She will make a presentation to us today. Taylor is from Ashtabula, Ohio, and was a University Honors student, who graduated from UC in 2023 with dual degrees in international affairs and political science before completing a Master of Public Administration at UC in 2024. In December we learned that Taylor is among this year's Marshall scholars, which makes her a winner of one of the world's most prestigious academic scholarships.

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In fact, Taylor is only the second UC graduate ever to receive the award and a first since Donna Kurtz, a 1965 graduate of UC's Classics Department who is today a senior research fellow at Oxford University. Taylor's Marshall recognition revolves around her work to transform food access. As Student Body Vice-President at UC, she helped broaden institutional attention to basic needs and later advanced long-term solutions as a student employee at the Bearcats Pantry and Resource Center. There she created Healthy Bites, a university-funded nutrition access program, and Family First, a childcare essentials program for student parents. Both remain active and continue supporting hundreds of students annually at UC.

Taylor currently serves as the Student Support Coordinator at American University where she manages the campus food pantry and leads basic need initiatives. Her work centers on culturally responsive service delivery and capacity building through community partnerships.

Please help me to welcome and congratulate UC alumna, Taylor Allgood.

PRESENTATION

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

Ms. Allgood:

Hello, everyone. Good morning, Chair Hartmann, President Pinto, and members of the board. As President Pinto mentioned, my name is Taylor Allgood, and I'm a proud alumna of the University of Cincinnati earning my bachelor's degrees in International Affairs and Political Science in 2023 followed by a Master of Public Administration in 2024.

I am deeply honored to stand before you all today as a 2026 Marshall Scholar. My journey to UC began in 2019, when I committed to the university without having ever toured campus. Some would call that decision bold; I call it faith.

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I was born and raised in Ashtabula, Ohio, a small town in northeast Ohio where the average median salary is \$44,000. In February of 2019, while working as a server at a local restaurant in my hometown, I learned I had been selected as a Darwin T. Turner scholar. That moment was a defining inflection point in my life, and it changed everything.

The Turner scholarship didn't just promise financial support, it communicated belief. It told me that this institution expected something meaningful from me. Interestingly, nearly seven years later, I learned I had been selected as a Marshall Scholar while at work at the market, the campus food pantry I now manage at American University in Washington D.C. There's something very powerful to me about two of the most transformative moments of my life arriving while I was serving others through food.

When I arrived at UC, I made a decision: I would treat this opportunity as something to steward, not simply receive. Through Undergraduate Student Government, where I eventually served as Student Body Vice-President, I learned governance, negotiation, and how to responsibly represent a then student body of 46,000 students.

Through the University Honors program and the Darwin T. Turner community, I developed academic discipline graduating with a 4.0 GPA across both my bachelor's and master's programs. Through service, particularly at the Bearcats Pantry and Resource Center, Generation Action, and other community organizations, I began to understand the intersection of policy and lived experience. And through studying abroad in Bordeaux, I strengthened my French language skills and deepened my global perspective. So much of my early sense of identity as a leader, scholar, and servant was formed right here on this campus.

My involvement with the Bearcats Pantry and resource center began as a volunteer shift. Over time I became an undergraduate staff member and eventually the graduate assistant

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supervising seven student staff and roughly 40 ambassadors and serving hundreds of students each semester. Through that work I began to see food insecurity not simply as scarcity but as a systems challenge.

I created Healthy Bites, a nutritious food access initiative that expanded to six campus locations including two satellite campuses, and Family First, a pilot program supporting student parents with essential supplies. Simultaneously, my academic work began aligning with my lived experience. I conducted IRB approved research examining public perceptions of charitable food systems and pursued my MPA on the Social and Urban Policy track. UC did not just teach me to serve. It taught me to design systems with dignity at the center.

This fall I will begin my studies as a Marshall Scholar at SOAS University of London pursuing a Master of Arts in Anthropology of Food followed by a Master of Science in International Planning and Development at Cardiff University in Wales. Together these degrees will allow me to examine food not only as culture and belonging, but as infrastructure and policy.

My long-term goal is to pursue a PhD and contribute to the redesign of global food security metrics, so they better reflect dignity and human resilience. I would not be standing here today without my loved ones including my mother, Christine, the Darwin T. Turner program, university honors program, Bearcats Pantry community, my faculty and staff mentors, and most importantly, Dr. Jenny Huest in the office of nationally competitive awards who believed in me long before the Marshall commission did.

I will carry my Bearcat identity with me proudly into future space I enter. I hope other Bearcats witnessing this moment recognize that they too belong on the world stage. Thank you so much for your time. *(Applause.)*

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Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Taylor, and thank you for making the trip back to Cincinnati. I hope the storm on the east coast wasn't a problem getting here. We truly are proud of you as an alumna of this university and wish you well in your studies in United Kingdom.

And with that, Chair Hartmann, I conclude my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, President Pinto. Wow Taylor. Rock star. 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 the Finance and Administration Committee, began at 8:53 am and concluded at 9:05 am.

Mr. Hartmann:

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 9:13 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

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

Mr. Hartmann:

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Are there any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve December 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes?

(Upon a motion moved by Mr. Byrner, and seconded by Mr. Boymel, a roll call vote was taken)

AYE: Gregory Hartmann; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman;
 Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne;
 Pradeep Bekal

NAY: None

ABSENT: Larry Sheakley

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. The Minutes are approved.

Additional Action Item

Mr. Hartmann:

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

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Chair Hartmann, I'll be glad to. It is my pleasure to recommend to this board E. Jean Savage for an honorary degree from the University of Cincinnati. Jean holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from UC in 1987 while balancing the rigors of her coursework against the demands of her co-ops and commitment to ROTC. At a time when few women pursued engineering careers in manufacturing, mining, and rail, she quickly distinguished herself in the industry leaning into a passion for innovation and her willingness to tackle the toughest problems.

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She began her professional journey in Parker Hannifin rising steadily through engineering and operational leadership roles and later held senior positions at Caterpillar and Progress Rail, where she led significant strategic and operational initiatives across global manufacturing organizations.

In 2020 Jean became first woman and the first non-family member to serve as president and CEO of Trinity Industries, a Fortune 1000 railcar company valued at \$2.7 billion. Her appointment reflects decades of proven performance, sound judgment, and respected leadership.

Beyond her executive leadership, she serves on several corporate and nonprofit boards contributing her expertise to advance manufacturing, business leadership, and community impact. She is also a proud veteran and served nine years as a U.S. Army Reserve Intelligence Officer. Jean has remained deeply connected to UC giving since 2006 and actively supporting both College of Engineering and Applied Science and the College of Medicine. Jean Savage exemplifies the best of the Bearcat spirit, accomplished, steady leadership, committed to service, and dedicated to strengthening the industries that power our nation. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Approval of the Items Recommended by the Board Committees

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, President Pinto. 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, and the non-committee item received today.

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

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

AYE: Gregory Hartmann; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman;
 Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne;
 Pradeep Bekal

NAY: None

ABSENT: Larry Sheakley

Mr. Hartmann:

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, and the Finance and Administration Committee at their respective meetings and non-committee recommendations, today, February 24, 2026:

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

26.02.24.01 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

Richard Caudell, MD, DMD

Adjunct Associate Professor Emeritus
 College of Medicine Department of
 Anesthesiology
 Effective January 1, 2026

Claire Chougnnet, PhD

Professor Emerita College of Medicine
 Department of Pediatrics

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Effective January 6, 2026

Sudhansu Dey, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics Effective January 2, 2026
Victor Garcia, MD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Surgery Effective January 1, 2026
Joseph Giglia, MD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Surgery Effective January 1, 2026
Rakesh Govind, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering Effective January 1, 2026
Karen Krone, MD	Adjunct Associate Professor Emerita College of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology Effective January 1, 2026
John Lorenz, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neurobiology Effective January 1, 2026
Mary Mahoney, MD	Professor Emerita College of Medicine Department of Radiology Effective January 1, 2026
Jagjit Yadav, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine

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Department of Environmental and Public
 Health Sciences
 Effective January 2, 2026

Endowed Chair / Professorship Appointments

W. Sean Davidson, PhD	The Mary M. Emery Pathology Endowed Chair College of Medicine Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Effective January 1, 2026 – August 31, 2031
Kamal Pohar, MD	The R. Bruce and Barbara Bracken Endowed Chair In Surgical Urology College of Medicine Department of Urology Effective January 15, 2026 – August 31, 2031
Jeffrey Strawn, MD	Dr. Henry and Amelia Nasrallah Endowed Professor in Behavioral Neuroscience College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience Effective February 24, 2026 – August 31, 2031

Unit Head Appointments

Angel Anorga, EdD	Unit Head UC Blue Ash College Language and Cultural Studies Effective August 15, 2026 – August 14, 2029
Kamal Pohar, MD	Chair College of Medicine Department of Urology Effective January 15, 2026 – August 31, 2031

New Hires

Luke Brewster, MD, PhD	Professor with Tenure College of Medicine Department of Surgery Effective January 15, 2026
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Kamal Pohar, MD Professor with Tenure College of
 Medicine Department of Urology
 Effective January 15,
 2026

Recommendations for Tenure or Promotion

From Instructor of Clinical to Assistant Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Kristen Arnold	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Abbie Goodman	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26

From Assistant Professor of Clinical to Associate Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Muhammad Khan	Internal Medicine	Effective 09/01/26
Aisha Sethi	Pathology & Laboratory Medicine	Effective 09/01/26
Stefanie Benoit	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Tanya Cahill	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Ashley Devonshire	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Trisha Marshall	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Brooke Reidy	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Shivali Sarawgi	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Natalja Stanski	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26

From Associate Professor of Clinical to Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Steven Kniffley, Jr	Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience	Effective 09/01/26
Sharat Chandra	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Khalil El-Chammas	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Pooja Khandelwal	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Sean Lang	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Ryan Moore	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
J. Michael Taylor	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26

From Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor

College of Medicine

Mihir Atreya	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
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From Research Associate Professor to Research Professor

College of Medicine

Amanda Schondelmeyer	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26
Michael Wagner	Pediatrics	Effective 02/24/26

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From Field Service Instructor to Field Service Assistant Professor

College of Medicine

Qiwei Xiao Pediatrics Effective 02/24/26

From Field Service Assistant Professor to Field Service Associate Professor

College of Medicine

Michael Pauciulo Pediatrics Effective 02/24/26

26.02.24.02 Approval of 2026 Distinguished Research Professor Awards

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointments: Christy Holland, PhD, Professor in the College of Medicine, and Sarah Stitzlein, PhD, Professor in the College of Education Criminal Justice and Human Services as the 2026 Distinguished Research Professors.

26.02.24.03 Approval of 2026 Distinguished Teaching Professor Award

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointment: Craig Froehle, PhD, Professor in the Lindner College of Business for the 2026 Distinguished Teaching Professor Award.

26.02.24.04 Approval of New Fellows of the Graduate College

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointments for membership in the Fellows of the Graduate College. Each person has been reviewed and elected by the membership of the Fellows of the Graduate College.

Mark Baccei
 Department of Anesthesiology College of Medicine

Joshua Benoit
 Department of Biological Sciences College of Arts and Sciences

Renee Hawkins
 School of Human Services, College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

Farrah Jacques
 Department of Psychology College of Arts and Sciences

Daniel Markovich
 Department of Classics College of Arts and Sciences

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Xia Wang
 Department of Mathematical Sciences College of Arts and Sciences

Sarah Whitton
 Department of Psychology College of Arts and Sciences

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

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

Jessica Furgerson - Associate Professor, English and Communications UC Blue Ash

Fred Krome, Professor of History UC Clermont

Kate Bonansinga, Professor of Art
 College of Design, Architecture and Planning

Casey Monday, Associate Professor Educator,
 Mathematical Sciences College of Arts and Sciences

Kate York, Associate Professor,
 Clinical Nursing College of
 Nursing

Janet Dong, Professor of Engineering College of Engineering and Applied Science

Michael Sharp, Professor of Service-Learning and
 Experiential Education College of Cooperative Education and Professional Studies

Joshua Lambert, Associate
 Professor of Statistics College of
 Nursing

Dean Stocker, Associate Professor of Physics UC Blue Ash

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26.02.24.06 Approval of Unit Name Change in the College of Engineering and Applied Science - FROM the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (MME) TO the Department of Mechanical, Materials, and Industrial Engineering (MMIE)

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an academic unit name change in the College of Engineering and Applied Science *from* the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering *to* the Department of Mechanical, Materials and Industrial Engineering. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

26.02.24.07 Approval of Undergraduate Degree Name Change in the College of Arts and Sciences - FROM Bachelor of Science in Geology TO Bachelor of Science in Geosciences

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an undergraduate degree name change *from* Bachelor of Science in Geology *to* Bachelor of Science in Geosciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

26.02.24.08 Approval of New Undergraduate Certificate – Community Development – College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the undergraduate certificate in Community Development in the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

26.02.24.09 Approval of New Undergraduate Certificate – Trauma Registry Management – UC Clermont

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the undergraduate certificate in Trauma Registry Management at UC Clermont College. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

26.02.24.10 Approval of New Graduate Certificate – Suzuki Pedagogy – College-Conservatory of Music

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the graduate certificate in Suzuki Pedagogy in the College-Conservatory of Music. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

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- 26.02.24.11** Approval of Discontinuation of Graduate Degree Programs:
 -Engineering Mechanics, MS and PHD – College of Engineering and Applied Science
 -Environmental Health Science, MS and PHD – College of Medicine
 -Medical Physics, MS and PhD – College of Medicine
 -Occupational Medicine, MS and PhD – College of Medicine
 -Performance Double Major, Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music – College-Conservatory of Music
 -MX in Short Term Study Abroad – College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the discontinuation of the following Graduate Degrees: Engineering Mechanics (MS, PhD) in the College of Engineering and Applied Science; Environmental Health Science (MS, PhD), Medical Physics (MS, PhD), Occupational Medicine (MS, PhD) in the College of Medicine; Performance Double Major (DMA, MM) in the College-Conservatory of Music; and MX in Short Term Study Abroad in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services. The proposals have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

B. Finance and Administration Committee

- 26.02.24.12** Approval of Holmes Hospital Renovation – College of Nursing Project

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve \$8,000,000 to fund the design and preconstruction phase of the Holmes Hospital Renovation – College of Nursing Relocation. The design and preconstruction work will allow the University of Cincinnati to prepare designs and cost estimates for the work detailed below.

- 26.02.24.13** Approval of Welcome Gateway Building

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve \$12,000,000 to fund the design of the Welcome Gateway Building.

- 26.02.24.14** Approval of Uptown Consortium Write off Request

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve and authorize the execution of the Note Exchange Agreement, which will replace the existing outstanding notes and facilitate the conversion of the remaining principal balances for Blocks 1, 2, and 3 into an equity

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position consistent with the Uptown Consortium Partners' strategic vision.

C. Non-Committee Items

26.02.24.15 Approval of Honorary Degree

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve E. Jean Savage's nomination for an Honorary Degree.

Unfinished Business and New Business

Mr. Hartmann:

Is there any unfinished business? Hearing none, we will move on to our new business and reports from the board of representatives. We'll start first with the graduate student trustee report by Joseph Lampton.

Graduate Student Report

Mr. Lampton:

thank you and good morning, Chair Hartmann, President Pinto, board members, representatives, and all our guests. I'd like to start by continuing to congratulate Taylor Allgood. Thank you for sharing that presentation. Super neat and inspiring work. I wish you the best going forward.

We have been off to an eventful start to the spring semester. I'd like to begin by highlighting graduate colleges recently launched strategic plan led by interim Dean Ryan White. The initiative highlights the graduate partnership across colleges and programs to strengthen graduate education support faculty and students, foster research in creative excellence, advance the provost strategic priorities. This aims to help ensure graduate programs remain coordinated

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and position long-term success while preparing graduates and post-doctoral students for leadership and various career pathways.

I've also been working in collaboration with interim Dean White, Vice-Provost Nicole Mayo, and Dean of Students Shaka Sydnor on organizing student listening sessions that will be held at each individual college at UC. This approach will be highly effective as the graduate student experience and perspectives vary widely across different programs.

Additionally, on February 25, tomorrow, the graduate college will host the annual three-minute thesis competition which is open to all student researchers. This year the event brings students across campus together to share their research and connect at an interdisciplinary level. This event helps make complex research feel accessible and engaging impactful beyond academic circles.

Also, in March student affairs and the graduate college will be hosting a university-wide mental health summit. This helps give students, staff, and faculty a dedicated time and space to engage in open dialogue, share resources available, and enhance shared well-being throughout UC. Feedback for this event has been positive with students appreciating the prioritization of well-being and professional development from the university.

Finally, as I met with students across campus this semester, many have shared a growing sense of concern about circumstances both here and beyond our campus. As leaders, our first and most fundamental responsibility is ensuring the safety and security of students from all walks of life, and I'm grateful for student affairs at UC International particularly for supporting our students during these times. As we move forward together, it's our duty to continue to ensure every student enrolled feels secure, not only in practice but in policy, so we can continue advancing our mission while building a stronger shared future together. This concludes my report.

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This concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, Joseph. We will now have the undergraduate student report by Riya Patel.

Undergraduate Student Report

Ms. Patel:

Hello, Chairman Hartmann, members of the Board of Trustees, President Pinto, cabinet members, and guests. Students have been settling back into their routines balancing course work, co-ops, campus involvement and the usual mid-semester pressure that comes with it. Today I would like to share a few updates regarding student experiences and overall campus sentiment.

As an R1 institution, University of Cincinnati continues to demonstrate excellence in research and innovation. This progress is made possible by the dedication of our research faculty, assistants, and principal investigators whose work strengthens both our academic reputation and real-world impact.

In the school year 2025, UC reached \$346 million in sponsored research awards representing a 6.6 percent increase over the previous year. This growth reflects the continued momentum of our research enterprise, including expanding activity in clinical and translational research. From medical advancements to engineering innovation, UC remains at the forefront of discovery while embodying the message Next Lives Here.

Speaking of innovation, a particularly exciting development this semester is the upcoming launch of UC's first ever student-led satellite in partnership with NASA. The aerospace student organization Cube Cats designed LEOPARDSat-1 marking a historical milestone for student innovation at UC. The satellite has been transferred to NASA and voyager and is scheduled for launch from the international space station. Under the leadership of Cube Cats president Nathan

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Nguyen, a member of the next innovation scholars' program, the team utilized the ground floor space at 1819 Innovation Hub to support their design and development process. This achievement highlights the hands-on learning opportunities available to students and reflects the ambition and capacity of our student body.

This winter UC also hosted a sustainability week in collaboration with the UC Office of Sustainability and the Student Bearcat Sustainability Council. This week featured guest speakers, interactive activities, and film showcases that encouraged engagement and dialogue around environmental responsibility. Initiatives like these create accessible entry points for students who want to be involved and reinforce a culture of shared responsibility across campus.

Students also experienced inevitable weather-related disruptions at the start of the semester. The university communicated closures, operational adjustments, and safety guidance clearly and promptly. From a student perspective, this consistent and proactive communication was appreciated, and it was especially important for commuters and students with lab or clinical obligations.

Thank you, Chairman Hartmann. This concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

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

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Odum:

Thank you, Chair Hartmann, President Pinto, board members, and guests for this opportunity to give a report on behalf of the university faculty and faculty senate. Before I begin my official report of the university faculty and faculty senate, I want to bid farewell to

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undergraduate student government president Joshua Copley. Though he is not here with us today, I wanted to send my heartfelt appreciation for his leadership and collaboration. I have watched him grow leaps and bounds over the last year, and I'm very proud of all that he has accomplished. Congratulations on a successful term as student government president, and I look forward to celebrating with you on commencement day.

As always, faculty senate has been diligently working to ensure faculty voice is represented across the university. In January UC's College of Medicine graciously hosted faculty senate for our monthly meeting which showcased the amazing work of senate committees. The human relations committee is reviewing previous recommendations outlined in the adjunct faculty report. The elections committee is in the midst of our spring election cycle, and interest in how to get involved with faculty senate is at an all-time high.

The planning committee worked with the registrar's office to develop an academic calendar most closely aligned with peer institutions. They are also working on several faculty engagement initiatives including a presentation from colleges outlining who we are, what we do, and why we matter. The governance committee is revising our procedural handbook and doing a comprehensive review of our bylaws. Overall, we rely on our committees in ensuring faculty voice is included in decision making.

On Tuesday, February 17, undergraduate student government, graduate student government, staff senate, faculty senate, and UC's graduate student trustee hosted a joint well-being fair. Representatives from across campus and the nearby community joined us to provide information about resources to support Bearcat well-being. The well-being fair was followed by our joint meeting with more than 100 Bearcats in attendance. It's a wonderful show of collaboration. We passed 2 resolutions. The first was in support to changes to the academic

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calendar, and the second was in support of improving the Bearcat well-being. The well-being resolution serves as a unified expression of the campus community's desire for leadership to visibly care for students, support and affirm the well-being of the entire Bearcat family.

I am confident that together we are stronger, and each day we are creating a future where every Bearcat thrives, every voice is valued, and every achievement reflects our collective purpose.

Thank you and that concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

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

Staff Senate Report

Dr. Pritchard:

Good morning, Chair Hartmann, members of the board, President Pinto, and guests. I'm pleased to present this report on behalf of staff senate. I'll be highlighting staff excellence, resources, and staff contributions to the university.

At its February meeting, Heather Cox, senior associate VP and chief human resources officer and HR leadership team presented on the job architecture project, the HR cloud transformation project. Benefits, updates, wellness resources, top workplaces survey, recruiting and onboarding updates, and (inaudible) staff success center. The team graciously spent time answering questions around the performance platform, job architecture implementation, getting involved in processes during inclement weather.

I'd like to take time to highlight the staff success center led by Tina Mahle. The staff success center is a training platform for employees with a team of experts who support professional development in connection of employees across the university. From new employee onboarding

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to monthly trainings and longitudinal academies for managers, aspiring leaders, and HR professionals, the staff success center is committed to supporting the mission of Next Lives Here by investing in staff development and supporting professional growth of those who contribute to the university's mission.

Each year the staff success center organizes a month-long series to support staff excellence and professional development. This year the signature event has been re-branded as staff enrichment month and is held in March. The theme is For Now and Next, Thriving in your Role at UC. Staff senate has successfully partnered in these efforts, and this year we're collaborating with UC Be Well and the staff success center to host mindful Mondays. It will be offered at each of the campuses, March 2 on west campus, March 9 at UC Blue Ash, March 16 at the Academic Health Center campus, and March 23 at UC Clermont.

The keynote speaker for staff enrichment month will be sports reporter Brandon Saho. However, other sessions are offered by our UC staff. There are 12 senators who are leading or co-leading seven sessions during the month. Senate cabinet is leading a session on Pride Now, Lead Next, Understanding Staff Senate Committees and Elections, as we look ahead to staff senate nominations.

Other sessions range in topics from leadership, particularly leading without a title and leading where you stand. Coupled with sessions on onboarding and talent retention. There are several sessions on artificial intelligence, from foundational offerings to how staff have incorporated this into their workflows.

Wellness and connection are footed throughout the sessions with guided meditation, movement, and cultivating a culture of support. Communication is also a key theme with sessions on curiosity, connection, and conflict, and a session on Bearcat safety.

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A certificate program is also being offered this month by the office of ethics compliance and community impact called Owing your Impact, Advancing a Culture of Respect and Accountability. This is a rich variety of professional development opportunities. So please share with your teams and encourage participation.

Lastly, staff excellence awards are held during March. This event celebrates and recognizes staff members at the university who go above and beyond. This year we received 153 nominations for 106 individuals. We thank 132 members of the UC community who actually submitted these nominations. The winners will be announced on March 27 at the staff excellence awards. I look forward to highlighting these individuals at the next board meeting.

Thank you. This concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, Dr. Pritchard.

Student Government Report

Mr. Hartmann:

Student body President Joshua Copley is absent today. I would like to thank him for his service as student body president, and we will celebrate him at graduation.

Executive Session

Mr. Hartmann:

I will now call for an executive session. After the executive session the board members will not return to conduct further business. Our next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

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May I have a motion to enter executive session to consider the employment or compensation of public employee or official, to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or imminent court action, and to discuss matters required to be kept confidential based on federal or state statutes?

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

AYE: Gregory Hartmann; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman;
 Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve
 Boymel; Kerry Byrne; Pradeep Bekal

NAY: None

ABSENT: Larry Sheakley

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. Motion carried. We will proceed with the Executive Session.

Adjournment of Executive Session and Reconvening of Regular Meeting

Mr. Hartmann:

We are now back on record.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Mr. Hartmann:

The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. 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. Bekal, a roll call vote was taken.)

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Mr. Hartmann:

All those in favor say “aye.” All opposed say “nay”. Motion carries. Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

GREGORY HARTMANN
CHAIRPERSON

MICHELLE A. GILLIS
SECRETARY