

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Official Proceedings of the

Four Hundred and Twentieth Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(A Special Meeting)

March 30, 2026

The Four Hundred and Fifteenth Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026, in the University Pavilion room 545 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 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; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley, Pradeep Bekal

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Jill McGruder

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
Trisha Smith, Chief of Staff;
Joseph Lampton, Graduate Trustee;
Riya Patel, Undergraduate Trustee;

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Greg Loving, Faculty Senate;
Nicole Blount, Executive Director of Board
Relations;
and the public

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 4:00 p.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

Mr. Hartmann:

Welcome to the Four Hundredth and Twentieth meeting of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees. Today's meeting is a Special Board Meeting to consider two action items and to conduct an Executive Session.

Thank you, I am recusing myself from the next item of action. Trustee Michelle Gillis, will you please take over this portion of the meeting?

Mrs. Gillis:

Sure, thank you Chair Hartmann, the first action item on our agenda is the naming of the College of Law. President Pinto, will you please comment on this? *(President Pinto will respond)*

President Pinto:

Thank you for convening today's special meeting. I am extremely honored and delighted to present for your consideration the naming of the University of Cincinnati College of Law as the Donald P. Klekamp College of Law. If approved, this action will mark a defining moment for the University of Cincinnati and our College of Law.

The Klekamp family has generously committed a \$43.2 million gift — the largest in the nearly 200-year history of the College of Law. *[Founded as Cincinnati Law School in 1833]* Their gift will primarily support four core areas within the college: A robust scholarship program,

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Experiential learning, Student success, and The Corporate Law Center.

The family’s extraordinary act of generosity honors their father, Donald Klekamp, and his enduring legacy in our city. Mr. Klekamp graduated from the UC College of Law in 1957.

During his career, he rose to become a visionary civic leader, philanthropist and founding partner of the Cincinnati-based law firm Keating Muething & Klekamp. Mr. Klekamp has described himself simply as the “poor boy from Carthage,” a reflection of the humility and determination that defines his life and career, which has not been without challenges

As a UC student, while working at Ford to support himself through Law School, he suffered a serious hand injury, an experience that affected his academic performance. Yet the firm that would later become Keating Muething & Klekamp took a chance on him, and he made the most of the opportunity.

As a lawyer, Don Klekamp maintained, throughout his career, a steadfast and singular focus on the interests of his clients, a principle that guided his success and reputation. In 1993 he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UC Law. In 1995, he endowed the Donald P. Klekamp Professorship of Law at UC, a chair that continues to support research and teaching today.

Mr. Klekamp also served as Mayor of Indian Hill, and he even officiated the wedding of Neil Armstrong, an example of the deep trust and respect he earned in the community. He was honored as a Great Living Cincinnati in 2023.

This visionary college naming gift strengthens our ability to prepare the next generation of talented legal minds. It also represents an incredible vote of confidence in the future of the University of Cincinnati and our Next Lives Here strategic direction. The College of Law is already experiencing strong momentum, with applications doubling over the last two years. Under Dean Haider Ala Hamoudi’s leadership — and thanks to the outstanding scholarship of our faculty and

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dedication of our staff — UC Law is expanding participation in experiential learning, rising in national rankings, and growing in student demand. This gift accelerates that momentum and positions the college for even greater national impact. It provides both immediate resources and long-term impact, allowing us to advance our mission and expand opportunity for our students.

I want to thank a few people who made this moment possible: Dean Hamoudi for his vision and stewardship of the college. Vice President of Advancement Rich Bundy and his team, particularly Vice President for Development at the UC Foundation Caleb Whited. They along with Dean Hamoudi skillfully stewarded the journey to this moment through partnership and persistence, thank you for your great work. And, most importantly, on behalf of a grateful university I want to thank the Klekamp family, whose generosity and commitment bring us here today.

This naming ensures that Donald Klekamp's legacy will inspire generations of students, faculty and leaders. Board approval today enables us to formally recognize this historic investment and move forward with implementation. Simply put, this gift greatly expands what is possible for the College of Law and for the University of Cincinnati. I would now like to invite Dean Haider Ala Hamoudi to share a few words.

Dean Hamoudi:

Thank you very much, President Pinto. It's a real honor and thanks to the members of the Board. It's a real pleasure to be with all of you today, to see so many familiar faces. You may remember that I spoke before this Board about three years ago, shortly after your meeting when I was first being interviewed for the Deanship and you gave me two pieces of advice and I took both of them very, very seriously. The first was that we were too narrowly and uniquely

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singularly focused on social justice causes. And while those were important and had a really important place at the College of Law, we were leaving other opportunities at the table.

The second was that we needed to do a little bit more to prepare our students for the actual practice of law and that that was something that the University of Cincinnati in general as well as the city could really lean into. And I heard you and with the wonderful team that is around me and the support of the President and the Provost, we've been able to make some real strides, as President Pinto just alluded to on student success. We built a deep, sustained program that begins before orientation, pre orientation, and it runs all the way through bar passage and indeed employment placement. Students at the top of the class get the support they need to work at firms like KMK and students who struggle get the support they need to pass the Bar and find meaningful work. We've invested in Wellness and in mental health because we believe a true community of belonging is inseparable from genuine student success. And on experiential learning, we campaigned with the Ohio Supreme Court to change the rules so that second-year students could represent clients in externships. They did change the rules.

As a result of that, we've changed our first-year curriculum to include practical simulation exercises so that our students will be able to engage in experiential learning as early as their second year. And at this point in time, over 95 percent of our students engage in credit bearing live client experiences, primarily through the externships, which are the law school's version of the university Co-op, and this is a number that's virtually unmatched throughout the country. In the Corporate Law Center, we've invested in a wonderful director, Neil Taylor, and he's led a very influential podcast and two outstanding symposia that have drawn leading scholars, practitioners, judges, government officials and regulators from across the country.

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We're privileged to have one of your members, Ron Brown, participate this year as a panelist and as a guest last year. And the Corporate Law Center is becoming exactly what we hoped it could be, one of the leading centers of corporate law in the nation. As President Pinto said, as these results, these changes have resulted in some real significant gains. We've crossed the 1300 applicant student applicant window in February. We were lucky to get 700 applicants in our previous history, and our application windows are not closed. We have entering credentials that have risen steadily. Our bar passage is now among the strongest in the state and our employment numbers. We were lucky to get 83 percent in the past and we are going to be exceeding 90 percent we expect this year. So, by any honest measure, nobody would have described us as the second-best law school in the state of Ohio when I joined. Everyone describes us that way at this point, students come to us from Ohio, from Kentucky, from Indiana, from all across the country because of our experiential learning, because of the student success programs, and because of the Corporate Law Center. These things that we've built have had meaningful impact. But I feel I need to be candid with you as well, because you were candid with me three years ago. At this point, we're hindered as we look to what's next in legal education.

And we're hindered because we have only two people that we can put on academic success, one that's focused on the beginning of the journey and one that's focused on the very end. And that middle gets a little bit lost. We're hindered because Ohio State offers more than twice the scholarship support that we do, and they take students we should be able to keep primarily, almost exclusively for financial reasons.

We're hindered because we can fund externships now throughout the city of Cincinnati. But as we look to become a national school that is well recognized in the region and beyond the region, we haven't had the resources necessary to build those externships more broadly and

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nationally. And we're hindered because the foundation upon which the Corporate Law Center was built to the directorship was funded through my startup funds and that's not a sustainable way to create a long-term investment. But what this gift is it closes that gap. That kind of investment can then be made. With the Klekamp gift, we can build the scholarship program that lets us keep the best students that we have. We can support our students from their entire Law school journey, not just the beginning and the end. We can expand experiential opportunities throughout all of Ohio, indeed throughout the nation, and we can give the Corporate Law Center the permanent stable foundation it needs to become something this city and this university can become. I really believe that this gift is transformational and if approved, and in fact, before this board, three years from now, I don't expect I'll be describing ourselves as the second-best law school in Ohio. I think I could say something considerably better than that. I really believe we can get there, and I believe if approved, this gift could make it possible. Thank you again for your time.

President Pinto:

Thank you, Dean Hamoudi. I will now turn it back to Trustee Shelly Gillis, closing with a strong recommendation to the Board for approval of the naming request of Donald P. Klekamp College of Law.

Mrs. Gillis:

Thank you President Pinto. What a wonderful testament from the Klekamp family to really have the confidence in the future and the vision of the University of Cincinnati and the University of the College of Law. Congratulations to those who worked on these efforts. It is transformational.

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Are there any questions? Seeing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve the Donald P. Klekamp College of Law?

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

(Motion is made)

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

NAY: None

RECUSAL: Gregory Hartmann

ABSENT: None

Mrs. Gillis:

Thank you the recommendation is approved. I will now turn the meeting back over to Chair Greg Hartmann.

Mr. Hartmann:

I will now call for an Executive Session. The members of the Board will return to conduct further business after the Executive Session is concluded. May I have a motion to enter Executive Session to consider the employment or compensation of a 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;

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Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne;
Larry Sheakley; Pradeep Bekal

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. We will proceed with the Executive Session.

Adjournment of Executive Session and Reconvening of Special Board Meeting

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. We are now back on record in the open session.

We will proceed with the additional action item. President Pinto, will you please comment?

President Pinto:

Thank you, Chair Hartmann. I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to Athletics Director John Cunningham on the recent hiring of UC's new Men's Basketball Coach Jerrod Calhoun. John and his team ran an incredibly efficient and effective national search in an extremely abbreviated amount of time that culminated with last Wednesday's introduction of Coach Calhoun to the Cincinnati community. John, would you like to share a few thoughts?

Mr. Cunningham:

Sure. Chair, members of the board, thank you for your continued leadership, your investment and your belief in the University of Cincinnati Athletics Department. Your commitment has positioned us to compete at the highest level, and we are grateful for that partnership. Today, I'm excited about the hiring of Jerrod Calhoun as our next men's basketball

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coach. Coach Calhoun brings exactly what this moment calls for. He's a proven leader, a relentless competitor, and someone who understands what it takes to build a sustained winning culture. His teams play with toughness, discipline and an edge that reflects the city and this program. Just as importantly, he connects, he develops young men, he recruits at a high level, and he embraces the responsibility that comes with leading a program like Cincinnati. We were intentional in this search. We wanted someone who aligns with our values, who understands the expectations of this program, and who has the vision and energy to lead us forward in an increasingly competitive landscape in the Big 12. Coach Calhoun checks every one of those boxes. That's the vision to compete and win championships. That's the expectation and that's why this hiring matters. With your continued leadership and support, I am confident we have positioned ourselves to take the next step forward. Thank you. Does anybody have any questions?

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. Executive Session is adjourned, and we are now back on record in the open session. We will proceed with committee meetings.

Approval of the Recommended Item

Mr. Hartmann:

The full Board will now vote on the board recommendation related to the MOU for Head Men's Basketball Coach Employment Agreement.

AYE:	Gregory Hartmann; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman; Jill McGruder (virtual); Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley; Pradeep Bekal
NAY:	None

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ABSENT: None

Adjournment of Special Meeting

Mr. Hartmann:

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

(A motion moved by Mr. Holloman, and second by Mr. Boymel.)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

GREGORY HARTMANN
 CHAIRPERSON

MICHELLE A. GILLIS
 SECRETARY