

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**Official Proceedings of the**  
**Three Hundred and Ninety-First Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**(A Regular Meeting)**  
**October 25, 2022**

The Three Hundred and Ninety-First Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 9:13 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 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*.

Kim Heiman, Madam Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Mrs. Heiman asked that roll be called.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kim Heiman; Ronald D. Brown; Phil Collins  
J. Phillip Holloman; Monica Turner, Gregory  
Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Neville G. Pinto, President;  
Patrick Kowalski, Senior Vice President for  
Administration and Finance;  
Valerio C. Ferme, Provost & Senior Vice President  
Academic Affairs;  
Lori Ross, General Counsel;  
Ryan Hays, Executive Vice President and Chief  
Innovation & Strategy Officer;  
Andrew Filak Jr., Sr. VP for Health Affairs and  
Dean, College of Medicine  
Logan Johnson, Graduate Student Trustee;  
Andrew AJ Wessel, Undergraduate Student Trustee;  
Isaac Smitherman, Undergraduate Student Body  
President  
Daniel Carl, Faculty Senate Chair;

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Heidi Pettyjohn, University Staff Senate  
Nicole Blount, Executive Director of Board  
Relations;  
and the public

*(Prior to the Board Committee Meetings and the Regular Board Meeting, Madam Chairperson Heiman began the proceedings at approximately 8:30 a.m.)*

Mrs. Heiman:

I call the Three Hundred and Ninety-First meeting of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees to order. Good morning, everyone, and welcome. Let me begin by congratulating all those involved in this fabulous Digital Futures facility, and we cannot thank you enough for bringing it to fruition. President Pinto, you should be extremely proud. The work that is happening here is truly inspirational.

Last month's grand opening was a wonderful moment in the history of the university. It is exciting for our board to have the opportunity to hold today's meeting here. A special thanks to the team in the 1819 Innovation Hub Makerspace for crafting these commemorative plaques. They are true works of art.

We will get things started with President Pinto's Report.

Dr. Pinto:

Good morning. I'd like to thank the board for fully supporting the vision that led to the Digital Futures complex. I recently attended the Cintrifuse Annual Meeting, a gathering of hundreds from our region; many of them CEOs and business leaders who are focused on innovation and Cincinnati's startup ecosystem. The excitement in our city for this building and the Cincinnati Innovation District, for which this building is now an important anchor, is truly

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remarkable. From our mayor to the leaders of Cincinnati's Fortune 500 companies, everyone believed that Digital Futures would be a transformation for our region.

I think while the UC community has had many reasons to celebrate this semester, sadly we experienced extreme hardship. On September 28, a driver sped through a red light near campus at Jefferson and University Avenues, striking two of our students who were crossing at a marked crosswalk. One student was injured, and the other was killed in the tragic incident. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone involved.

The safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors on and around campus is a top priority. I've challenged my leadership team to develop solutions to address the situation. Immediate and continuing efforts include high visibility patrols with UC police and security officers during rush hours near campus; installation of speed notification signs and trailers; digital messaging boards; and increased traffic enforcement by the Cincinnati Police Department.

We are also working closely with the City of Cincinnati on long-term solutions. Those efforts are being led by our Planning, Design, and Construction team, which is meeting with Cincinnati Traffic Engineering to improve key intersections around campus. Nothing is more important than the well-being of our campus community, and this will be an ongoing effort.

In terms of additional Fall semester updates, I mentioned this at the last board meeting, but it bears repeating. Our enrollment this Fall is our largest ever, and they make up our most diverse student body in history with 25.5% students of color. Our first-year students are also the most academically prepared we've ever had.

In addition to opening this wonderful building last month, we cut the ribbon on the new College of Law building. The transformation is stunning. I'm grateful to our Planning, Design, and Construction group for this accomplishment. I've heard from numerous law students on how

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transformational and well suited the space is for their learning, and from an equal number of alumni on how they wish they had a space like this when they were in law school.

Next, I'd like to congratulate UC Clermont College, which marked its 50th anniversary this semester. It was a joy to join Dean Bauer and all those at the regional campus in marking their golden anniversary. Clermont, and each of our colleges, are having unprecedented success meeting our students' academic needs.

This semester we have also taken an important step to invest in the UC community's mental wellness. Students, faculty, and staff now have access to a premium subscription of Calm, a digital health tool that has proven to help lower anxiety, decrease stress, and improve sleep. Features on the app include a mood check-in, breathing techniques, daily Calm reflections, a sleep tracker, and soothing soundscapes. Our Student Wellness Center reports there are 3,000 students signed up since it was introduced two weeks ago. An additional 50 to 100 new users are signing up daily.

I've provided a printed version of my report highlighting some accomplishments by faculty and staff since the last board meeting. In the interest of time, I'll highlight just a few. The 2022 U.S. News and World Report rankings once again placed UC at the top among public universities for our cooperative education program. This year we also broke into the U.S. News list of most innovative universities. Our faculty researchers continue to make discoveries and uncover new knowledge that advance the society. Among those making news lately are:

- UC professors Justin Benoit, Jason McMullan, and Ephraim Gutmark founded a startup called Spiritus, out of our 1819 Venture Lab. They developed a monitor for a self-inflating bag used in emergency care to provide ventilation to a person not breathing normally.
- The College of Arts and Science math professor Jintai Ding co-created an encryption

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- tool with the National Institute of Standards and Technology as best chosen to thwart the next generation of hackers and thieves. Thanks to Dr. Ding's work, the telecommunications online retail and banking systems we use every day will be safer.
- Finally, UC's College Conservatory of Music was ranked number seven in the nation by Playbill Magazine on its list of “most represented colleges on Broadway.” The last season, at least 21 UC alumni appeared in Broadway productions and that is quite an accomplishment.

So, on to this morning's presentation. This morning's presentation is about drone development by Dr. Kelly Cohen. Dr. Cohen has 15-plus years as a professor and has made an impact on the university and students within the professional community. He is the Brian H. Rowe Endowed Chair and was the interim head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from 2017-2021. He has received numerous awards, many of which showcase his impact as a teacher, mentor, and researcher including UC honors for faculty-student relations and excellence in teaching.

Prior to coming to UC in 2007, Dr. Cohen had a 22-year career as an engineer and researcher working with UAVs/drones when the technology was in its infancy. Dr. Cohen now helps lead the Drone Research Ecosystem at Digital Futures. This team's research strengths that revolve around the incorporation of intelligent, autonomous, and optimized algorithmic architecture for effective swarming, safety assurance, planning/tasking operations, and air traffic management. The team has made specific inroads and civilian applications setting first responders, disaster management operations, infrastructure inspection, traffic monitoring, and telehealth aerial delivery. Welcome, Dr. Cohen.

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**PRESENTATION**

Dr. Cohen:

Good morning to all of you. Madam Chairperson, President Pinto, members of the board, Provost, leadership of Digital Futures, thank you for having me here today. I represent a team of faculty here and four staff members at Digital Futures. You can see snapshots here from opening day that included our mayor.

Drones have been around for over a century with applications led by the armed forces. With the onset of the information age, the rapid spread of military drones has spilled over to civilian applications such as camera carrying uncrewed air vehicles. The global commercial drone market size was estimated to be worth 13 billion dollars in 2020 and is forecast to grow to over 500 billion dollars by 2028. Additionally, this technology has extended to “Advanced Air Mobility” which includes movement of people and goods in the third dimension and having a potential global economic impact of 1.9 trillion dollars in the next 25 years.

The Drone Team began its journey at the University of Cincinnati in Fall 2007 with the hiring of myself and Dr. Manish Kumar. In 2018, Aashish Priye joined UC. In June 2022, the labs were relocated to the new Digital Futures Building along with four staff/research associates, namely, Anoop, Austin, Bryan, and Justin. Around this core of seven 7 individuals having over 75 years of collective drone experience, the team currently has over 30 graduate students while having graduated 20 PhD and 65 MS students.

The team has received funding from NASA, DOD/Air Force, NSF, DHS, DOT/ODOT, and Industry. The team has also produced over 200 drone related publications collectively including peer reviewed journal papers, book chapters and one book, as well as numerous invention disclosures.

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Research strengths mainly revolve around the incorporation of intelligent, autonomous and optimized algorithmic architectures for effective swarming, safety assurance, planning/ tasking operations and air traffic management. This capability is further supported by fixed-wing, rotary and hybrid drone design, construction, integration, internal/external flight tests, and in-house ground station development and deployment.

In addition to technological developments the team has specifically made inroads in civilian applications concerning first responders/disaster management operations, infrastructure inspection, traffic monitoring, tele-health and aerial delivery of supplies. Recently, during the COVID 19 Pandemic, the team developed a portable biochemical analysis platform for rapid field deployment of nucleic acid-based diagnostics using consumer-class quadcopter drones and smartphones.

At Digital Futures, the infrastructure is exemplary which includes a 2-story indoor high bay drone flying arena equipped with a large set of accurate motion tracking cameras. Coupled with the Simulation Center's AR/VR and the High-Performance Computing Center, we are capable of developing human-centered trustworthy AI driven solutions for problems that matter by utilizing a multi-disciplinary team that incorporates IOT, drones, human factors, and industrial design to advance real-world applications. The team, based in the College of Engineering and Applied Science is now partnering with Colleges across the UC campus including Arts and Sciences, Business, Medicine, Nursing and DAAP.

We are looking now to the future. What's next? There is a 15 million dollar proposal put into DOT. We hope that we'll get it and we have support from the senators of the State of Ohio. UC is the lead, and we have UCLA, University of Florida, Carnegie Melon, and Morgan State as our partners.

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Thank you very much.

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Dr. Cohen, for the inspirational work and presentation. I hope everyone will take advantage of the open invitation to visit the lab. It is really good. Thank you, again.

(Applause)

That concludes my report.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you, President Pinto. 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 8:50 am and concluded at 9:13 am.

Mrs. Heiman:

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

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**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees 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**

Mrs. Heiman:

Are there any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve the August 23, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes?

*(A motion was moved by Mrs. Turner, and second by Mr. Brown)*

Mrs. Heiman:

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

**Approval of the Items Recommended by the Board Committees**

Listed below are the items recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Audit and Risk Management Committee, and Governance and Internal Affairs Committee at their respective meetings today, October 25, 2022.

**A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

**22.10.25.01 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.

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**Dean Appointment**

Christopher Surratt, PhD

Dean of James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy  
 Effective July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

**Emeritus Status**

Aurora Bennett, MD

Professor of Clinical Emerita  
 College of Medicine  
 Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral  
 Neuroscience  
 Effective September 3, 2022

Thomas DeWitt, MD

Professor Emeritus  
 College of Medicine  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 Effective July 25, 2022

Denise Gormley, PhD

Professor Emerita  
 College of Nursing  
 Effective November 5, 2022

Masato Nakafuku, MD, PhD

Professor Emeritus  
 College of Medicine  
 Department of Pediatrics  
 Effective June 19, 2022

**Endowed Chair / Professorship Appointments**

Alex B. Lentsch, PhD

Jacob G. Schmidlapp Chair  
 College of Medicine  
 Department of Environmental and Public  
 Health Sciences  
 Effective July 19, 2022

Debashis Pal, PhD

David Sinton Professor of Economics  
 Lindner College of Business  
 Department of Economics  
 Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2025

David Salem, JD

Richard E. Thornburgh Professorship of Practice  
 Lindner College of Business  
 Department of Finance  
 Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2025

**New Faculty Appointments**

Shesh Rai, PhD

Professor with Tenure  
 College of Medicine  
 Department of Environmental and  
 Public Health Sciences  
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Wei Shi, PhD	Professor with Tenure College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Effective September 12, 2022
Ying Sun, PhD	Professor with Tenure College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering Effective August 15, 2022
Christopher Surratt, PhD	Professor with Tenure College of Pharmacy Effective July 1, 2022
<b><u>Unit Head Appointments</u></b>	
Shauna Acquavita, PhD	Unit Head School of Social Work College of Allied Health Sciences Effective January 2, 2023 – August 14, 2027
Erynn Casanova, PhD	Unit Head Department of Sociology College of Arts and Sciences Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2027
Dinshaw Mistry, PhD	Unit Head Department of Asian, East European and German Studies College of Arts and Sciences Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2027
Kevin Raleigh, PhD	Unit Head Department of Geography College of Arts and Sciences Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2027
Ying Sun, PhD	Unit Head Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2027
Ryan White, PhD	Unit Head Department of Chemistry College of Arts and Sciences Effective August 15, 2022 – August 14, 2027



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Hansel Greiner	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
David Hooper	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Robert Hopkin	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Marialena Mouzaki	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Hemant Sawnani	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Charulata Venkatesan	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22

**From Research Instructor to Research Assistant Professor**

Mihir Atreya	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Timothy Chlon	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22

**From Research Associate Professor to Research Professor**

Lili Ding	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Lin Fei	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
Nanhua Zhang	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22

**From Field Service Assistant Professor to Field Service Associate Professor**

Min Dong	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
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**From Field Service Associate Professor to Field Service Professor**

J. Matthew Kofron	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
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**From Assistant Professor Educator to Associate Professor Educator**

Francis Real	Pediatrics	Effective 10/25/22
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**22.10.25.02 Approval of Unit Name Change from Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology to Molecular and Cellular Biosciences College of Medicine**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the academic unit name change *from* Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology *to* Molecular and Cellular Biosciences in the College of Medicine. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities

**22.10.25.03 Approval of Name Change from Graduate School to Graduate College**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the name change *from* the Graduate School to the Graduate College. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

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**B. Finance and Administration Committee**

**22.10.25.04 Approval of Request to Extend a Combustion Turbine Maintenance Agreement**

**Synopsis:** This recommendation seeks approval to extend the university's full-service combustion turbine maintenance agreement with Solar Turbines, Inc. through execution of a ten-year extension for a total cost of \$26,492,380.

**22.10.25.05 Approval of Siddall Hall Renovation Request for Construction Phase Services**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a funding request of \$78,500,000 for the construction phase of the Siddall Hall Renovation.

**22.10.25.06 Approval of Renovation and Adaptive Reuse of 121 East McMillan Project Scope and Budget Adjustment**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the change in total project cost for the renovation and adaptive reuse of 121 East McMillan from \$10,130,000 to \$13,600,000.

**22.10.25.07 Approval of Resolution Authorizing Request for Waiver of Standard Tuition Rates for UC Online**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the resolution for the university to request a waiver by the Ohio Chancellor of Higher Education of standard tuition rates related to UC Online courses for certain corporate sponsored students.

**22.10.25.08 Approval of University State Efficiency Report for FY 2022**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the University of Cincinnati's 2022 Efficiency Plan. This plan outlines UC's efforts to identify and implement cost-saving efficiencies and opportunities. In accordance with House Bill 64 (Section 369.550), it requires each public institution to complete an efficiency review and submit their implementation plan to the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

**C. Audit and Risk Management Committee**

**22.10.25.09 Approval of Acceptance of the University's 2022 Audited Financial Statements**

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**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati accept the university's financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and independent auditor's report.

**D. Governance and Internal Affairs Committee**

**22.10.25.10 Approval of Amendment of Board Rule: 3361: 10-30-02 Research: publication restrictions in sponsored research**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the amended Board Rule 3361:10-30-02 of the University of Cincinnati. The amendment extends the period of time for delays in academic research publications on sponsored research projects. The amendment reflects changes to industry standards and is intended to increase administrative efficiencies.

**22.10.25.11 Approval of Amendment of Board Rule 3361:10-30-03 Research: Policy on Sensitive but Unclassified Research**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve and authorize the amendment of Board Rule 3361:10-30-03. The amendment will remove the existing prohibition on the performance of classified research and limit the applicability of the rule to controlled but unclassified research. By removing the prohibition on classified research, it will allow the university to support a broader range of research activities that advance the institution's mission.

**22.10.25.12 Approval of New Board Rule 3361:10-30-04 Research: Policy on Classified Research**

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve and authorize the creation of a new Board Rule 3361:10-30-04. The proposed new rule will permit and govern all activities involving classified information on behalf of the or at any facility controlled by the university, or with the direct or indirect use of university resources.

**22.10.25.13 Approval of Resolution Exempting Trustees from Access to Classified Information**

**Synopsis:** The recommendation seeks a resolution of the Board of Trustees authorizing exemption of all voting members of the Board of Trustees from access to classified information.

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**22.10.25.14            Approval of Amendment of Board Rule 3361:10-1-05 Board of Trustees Bylaws: Committees**

**Synopsis:**            It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the amendment of Board Rule 3361:10-01-05. Amendments to the rule will eliminate the Government Relations Committee and Health Affairs Committee for the purpose of creating a more efficient and streamline committee structure for Board of Trustees' operations.

**E.     Non-Committee Items**

**22.10.25.15            Approval of Honorary Degree**

**Synopsis:**            It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the nomination of Thomas E. Mischell for an Honorary Degree.

**Consideration of Items**

Mrs. Heiman:

Next, we're going to move to approval for an honorary degree. President Pinto, will you comment on this recommendation?

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'm honored to nominate Tom Mischell for an honorary degree. Tom has been an outstanding advocate and friend of the institution, and he is incredibly deserving of this recognition. Tom earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting in 1970. He then went on to a distinguished career and retired as senior vice president from American Financial Group.

Along the way, Tom stepped up and gave back as an outstanding contributor to his alma mater. His contributions at UC include serving as a UC Board of Trustees member from 2016 to 2021, including as chair of the Audit & Risk Management Committee, Past chair of the UC

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Foundation Board Audit Committee, Member of the UC Health Board of Directors, Member of the Business Advisory Council for the Lindner College of Business, and the Lindner Honors-PLUS Advisory Board. He also served the LCOB Alumni Association as a Board member, on the Business Dean’s Advisory Board, and as a Board member of University Athletic Teams Scholarships (UCATS).

Tom has served on many boards for the city, the state, professional organizations, nonprofits and more. His steady influence and unwavering commitment to our university and the broader community is truly appreciated. His work to elevate the mission, vision and values of the University of Cincinnati fully qualifies him for this honor.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you. May I have a motion, please, and a second to approve this honorary degree?

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

**AYE:** Kim Heiman; Ronald D. Brown; Phil Collins; J. Phillip Holloman; Monica Turner; Gregory Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you. The recommendation to approve the honorary degree for the esteemed Tom Mischell is approved. Congratulations.

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Mrs. Heiman:

The full board has been present at the Committee Meetings held today and has received the recommendations of the Academic and Student Affairs, Finance and Administration, Audit and Risk Management, and Governance and Internal Affairs Committees.

May I have a motion to approve all the recommended items put forth by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Audit and Risk Management Committee, and Governance and Internal Affairs Committee?

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

**AYE:** Kim Heiman; Ronald D. Brown; Phil Collins J. Phillip Holloman;  
 Monica Turner; Gregory Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mrs. Heiman:

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

**Unfinished Business and New Business**

Mrs. Heiman:

Is there any unfinished business to come before the board? Hearing none, I would like to now move on to reports from the board of representatives. We will start with our graduate student trustee, Logan Johnson.

### **Graduate Student Report**

Ms. Johnson:

Good morning. Since our last board meeting, I have had the opportunity to meet with leaders across the University of Cincinnati to discuss their positions, organizations, or departments, the student needs they have identified, and how they feel the administration can continue to support them. These conversations helped me develop a holistic understanding of our institution so I can best represent the interests of as many students as possible during my term as Graduate Student Trustee. I am grateful to have learned so much from these discussions, and there is one main takeaway from them that I want to share with you today.

Almost every layer of our institution (e.g., students, staff, etc.) is intentionally making space to strategize how to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial and social justice (DEIRSJ) within their realm to better support all students. For example, undergraduate and graduate students are working courageously to raise the consciousness of our university concerning DEIRSJ by continuing to advocate for themselves to each other, staff, faculty, and even here in this room. Student-oriented spaces, such as Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), International Services, and the African American Cultural Resource Center (AACRC), are working together to design and implement intersectional programming to uplift all identities that have found a home at the university. The Faculty and Staff Senates are also taking measures to promote DEIRSJ internally and externally, ultimately enhancing the experience of all students. My point here is that almost every level of our institution has intentionally made space to address DEIRSJ, placing our university on a true path of embracing the president's initiative concerning equity, inclusion, and community impact.

Given the work done around the institution surrounding DEIRSJ, I want to propose how

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we, the Board of Trustees, can best support our students, staff, and faculty. As every level of our institution is intentionally making space to promote DEIRSJ, it only seems fitting that we intentionally make space to have those conversations here. I am asking the Board of Trustees what it would look like to create a committee dedicated to DEIRSJ so we can consistently hear, unpack, and tackle DEIRSJ-related topics as a university, similar to the decision to remove the McMicken name. I know this request is no small ask of the Board of Trustees, and it puts more work on each of our plates. However, every level of our institution needs us to be more intentional about having these conversations, not only to better the campus climate but also to help with the strategic direction of our university.

The University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees has long accomplished great things for the institution, and we will continue to do so. I hope that we welcome this idea of adding a committee to our board so that we enhance our excellence, impact, and innovation that we keep seeing today. Thank you.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you very much, Logan. Next, I call on our undergraduate student trustee, AJ Wessel for his report. AJ?

**Undergraduate Student Report**

Mr. Wessel:

Good morning, everyone. I hope your health is in pristine condition and that your spirits are high as we approach the month of November. Over the past couple of months, I have more routinely focused on my own health and wellbeing, and I wanted to spend some time talking about

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this today. October is Mental Health Awareness Month. From a study done in August of 2022, it is estimated that roughly 64% of students who drop out of college do so because of mental health problems and that 41% of college students have depression. Oftentimes, our immediate response is to guide these students to a form of mental health service. That is not always the best thing to do. In the same study, 33% of students who received mental health services considered suicide. Our response to these issues in today's world is to direct them to mental health services immediately, but I ask you to consider the viewpoint of a college student.

Sometimes a mental health service is not what is needed in that individual's life. While it can help people and has been proven to do so, the love and care missing from the lives of some of these students cannot be given through these sessions and appointments. The acts of interacting with students, fostering relationships with them, and overall, taking time to check in with them has become a foreign concept. This is not just a student issue; this is an everyone issue. Our faculty and staff suffer as well. I urge you all to intentionally prioritize your health and to become more aware of the health and wellbeing of those around you.

In transition, I was caught off guard about two weeks ago walking through campus where I ran into some undergraduate students who were walking around campus and cleaning up trash. I thought to myself that maybe they were doing it for a class, but I decided to approach them and ask. When I did so, they told me that they were just doing it to make a stronger effort to display the beauty of our campus without trash hindering it. While I am not sure what can be done to fix this immediately, it is important to bring this to your attention. People come from around the world to see our campus and I think it is important to prioritize the cleanliness of our university. When prospective students and families come to campus, seeing trash blowing around, or even a stadium full of trash is not good for us. As we look to increase our attendance annually, addressing this

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issue is vital. While academics and fit for an individual in relation to a specific college is extremely important, I have personally interacted with students before who have not gone to a university because of its appearance despite the fact that it had everything else they were looking for.

In conclusion, I thank you for your time and for your willingness to become more aware.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you, AJ. Next, we have the Faculty Senate report from Dan Carl.

**Faculty Senate Report**

Dr. Carl:

Good morning, Chair Heiman, members of the Board, President Pinto, and guests. Since our last Board of Trustees meeting the Faculty Senate has had the opportunity to gather at our regularly scheduled September and October meetings. During these gatherings we had the opportunity to hear insightful updates and share meaningful conversations with President Pinto and Provost Ferme. We have entertained presentations and had robust conversation on classified research and how that may affect faculty presented by Holly Bante & Scott Petersen; on the role of the Disabilities office and their relationship with faculty presented by Heidi Pettyjohn; and with Richard Harknett presenting on the concerns surrounding intense political contexts inside the classroom. Each of these presentations resulted in robust conversation including question and answer opportunities with the Senate. The Faculty Senate is thankful and pleased for the sharing of their respective information and answering our questions. During these meetings we have also had the opportunity to hear from Pat Limbach on Research and Innovation, Nicole Mayo on Hazing Prevention Training, and from Daniel Cummins on the Bearcat Pantry and a Student Affairs

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update. So, it has been a busy two months.

A primary focus of Faculty Senate has been the cooperative efforts with Provost Ferme in beginning conversations on the establishment of a General Education review committee to address compliance issues with the Gen Ed curriculum and alignment with the Ohio Department of Education. We anticipate this to be a challenging item with in-depth discussions as we attempt to tackle state requirements, DEI initiatives, and the maintaining of rigor and faculty expertise within these courses. Currently the committee is in the process of being convened and we would like to note our appreciation of the provost for his willingness to work alongside faculty on this important issue.

We continue to plan alongside, staff, student, and graduate student governments for our joint November 10 meeting to be held in the newly christened Digital Futures Building. President Pinto will provide updates and we will hear from each respective group on their issues centering around health, wellness, and safety. Included either prior to or immediate post-meeting we are planning to have facility tours for those inclined. We welcome any board members to join us as their time and interests allow.

I will close with acknowledgement that we are actively continuing to work on enhancing effective communication from Faculty Senate to all faculty. The Senators have been charged with being active getting out in front of their colleagues and respective departments and colleges.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you very much, Dan. Next, I call for the Staff Senate Report by Heidi Pettyjohn.

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**Staff Senate Report**

Ms. Pettyjohn:

Good morning, Madam Chairperson Heiman, members of the board, President Pinto, and all of our guests today. Staff Senate supports staff connection to each other, to UC, and to our greater community. In October, we passed the first resolution of the term that promotes each of those, which is to support the return of UC Serves. UC Serves began in 2014 with 100 staff spending a Friday providing community service at locations across Greater Cincinnati and was last held in 2019 with close to 500 employees at over 50 service sites throughout our region. Our resolution to co-sponsor UC Serves with Student Affairs passed unanimously and we look forward to UC Serves 2023.

Staff Senate is aligned under the Staff Enrichment Pathway, which aims for a workplace environment that engages and aligns staff participation and support to improve organizational functioning. Employee volunteer programs provide numerous benefits including increased employee connectivity, engagement, loyalty, higher retention; and increased customer/ community loyalty. But I want to share why this resolution matters in the words of Staff Senators. Kelly Cantwell, Senior Public Information Officer in Public Safety, said, “When I was a new employee, UC Serves made me proud and excited to have joined the university.” Jim Currie, Director of Facility Operations at the 1819 Building, said, “UC is an integral part of the Cincinnati community and the opportunity to serve strengthens both the overall community and the UC community itself.” Hannah Williamson, Associate Director of the Learning Commons, reflected that “UC Serves allows community partners to see a tangible representation of the Next Lives Here mission.” Andrew Higley, Associate Director for Marketing and Brand said, “UC Serves is a chance to engage with our community on a hands-on, personal level that allows community

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members to see us in their neighborhoods making an impact, and it is an opportunity for us as staff to interact outside of our everyday partnerships and silos.” Lisa Burke, Associate Director of Student Financial Aid, said “UC Serves brings us together as a community to improve, support, and meet the needs of so many across the greater Cincinnati area. This feeling of coming together for a greater cause outside of what we do every day at UC gives us an even greater purpose and bond with the people and businesses who have supported us throughout the years and shows that UC is committed to sustaining and improving the things that matter most to our community.” Daniel Cummins, Associate Dean of Students, said, “Service is the cornerstone of any strong community. It is important for Bearcats to be strengthening our city not only through educating our leaders for tomorrow but caring for our community today. Service is caring.”

UC Serves shows our students that as an organization, we walk the talk, and it shows our leaders that our staff plays a major role in shaping the footprint of UC. Tangible, meaningful, consistent, university-wide benefits like this show our staff that they can shape the future of this institution, and that leaders recognize and value our commitment to a culture that is not rented but owned. Thank you.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you, Heidi. Next, I call for the Student Government Report by Isaac Smitherman.

**Student Government Report**

Mr. Smitherman:

Good morning Madam Chairperson Heiman, fellow board members, and those in the gallery. With the beginning of the fall semester underway, I am excited to share what

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Undergraduate Student Government has been working on thus far. Vice President Yulia Martinez, myself and fellow members of Student Government have been hard at work this semester and a few of our most pressing updates are as follows:

First, after the recent tragedy on Jefferson Ave, we sent out a survey on October 6 to hear from students about their experiences with and thoughts on Pedestrian Safety in our community. These are the current results of that survey. Of the 105 responses, 61 students said they walked from off-campus housing and 30 said they drove from off-campus housing to go to school. An overwhelming number of respondents stated that they had almost been hit, seen other students almost be hit, or generally felt unsafe while crossing the street in the area. 76 students responded that we should implement pedestrian bridges, 65 responded that signage needs to be improved and that street infrastructure needs to be re-envisioned, 63 responded that speed bumps need to be added, and 54 said that speed limits need to be more aggressively enforced. 100 respondents answered Yes to the question “Do you think it is the responsibility of the University of Cincinnati to be an advocate for Pedestrian Safety?”. Of the respondents that said yes, a high majority stated that the University should invest financially in pedestrian safety and lobby the city to make improvements to our streets. We are still collecting responses to this survey until October 28th after which, we will do a deeper dive into the data. I would like to emphasize that this data reflects that the work the university is doing is well in line with what students are asking for, and I would like to thank everyone involved for the work they've been doing to solve this issue.

In addition to the survey, we are looking forward to working with several student activists and the local community councils to host a walk on Jefferson Avenue and the surrounding streets to engage in a collective conversation about the changes that we would like to see implemented.

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Second, we recently heard concerns from one of our Senator-At-Large that the university is not taking international student's accessibility to co-op seriously. Many international students face significant barriers to finding co-ops due to the strict requirements of OPT and CPT visas. We have heard from employers that International Students "clog the lines" of their applications and that they are against advertising opportunities, even when they are available, to International Students for these reasons. We know that this is a larger systematic issue, but with co-op being an integral part of Next Lives Here and a requirement to graduate, we would like to see the university take a stronger stance with employers to defend International Students', and otherwise marginalized students, right to a co-op.

We will continue to engage students on these issues and would love to collaborate with anyone here today to find solutions. Thank you all again for your time this morning, and with that, I conclude my report.

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you, Isaac. I would like to just first say to Logan, AJ, Dan, Heidi, and Isaac that we very much appreciate your thoughtful suggestions and your intentional actions to advance the mission of UC and to strengthen our community in general. And I also want you to know that we as a board and the administration have heard you, and we do look forward to considering all of the important issues that you raise today. So, thank you all very much. We're very appreciative.

**Executive Session**

Mrs. Heiman:

I will now call for an Executive Session. The members of the board will not return to

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conduct further business after Executive Session is concluded. Our next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

May I please have a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of considering the employment and compensation of a public employee, or official?

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

**AYE:** Kim Heiman; Ronald D. Brown; Phil Collins J. Phillip Holloman;  
 Monica Turner; Gregory Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mrs. Heiman:

Thank you. We will now proceed with Executive Session.

**Adjournment of Executive Session**

Mrs. Heiman:

There being no further business for Executive Session, may I have a motion to adjourn Executive Session?

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

**AYE:** Kim Heiman; Ronald D. Brown; Phil Collins J. Phillip Holloman;  
 Monica Turner; Gregory Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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Mrs. Heiman:

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

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KIM HEIMAN  
CHAIRPERSON

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J. PHILLIP HOLLOMAN  
SECRETARY