

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Official Proceedings of the
Four Hundred and Sixteenth Meeting of the Board of Trustees
(A Regular Meeting)
August 26, 2025

The Four Hundred and Sixteenth Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, in the Digital Futures Building of the University of Cincinnati. Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. The proceedings of the Board, when not otherwise provided for by its bylaws, are governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

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

Mrs. Turner asked that roll be called.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

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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 8:30 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

Mrs. Turner:

Good morning, everyone. Hopefully, all of you this Tuesday morning are feeling like it's a good day. I'd like to call the 416th meeting of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees to order. Welcome, as I said, and thanks to everyone for being here today. Our board is extremely excited because it's the new year and we have all the students coming back to class. It is the most exciting time where we're all doing what the mission says, which is ensuring we're creating an environment to make sure that we're teaching the next generation of leaders. I'd like to wish all faculty, staff, students, and administrators a wonderful beginning of the semester and a productive and rewarding year.

Next, let me welcome three new faces. First, we saw this face last time. We want to formally introduce Riya Patel who joined us during the special board meeting last month. We did not have an opportunity to officially welcome you.

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Riya is our new undergraduate student trustee. She's a third-year medical science major with strong interest in research and community impact. Riya is currently studying environmental aerosols and respiratory disposition patterns and is a member of the Next Innovation Scholars Program. We are very glad you're here, Riya and we look forward to working with you. Riya will be assigned to the Academic and Student Affairs and the Finance and Administration Committees. Welcome, Riya.

Second, Dr. Tracy Pritchard is the fourth Chair named to Staff Senate. She has been a Senator continuously serving since 2020, previously held the roles of Vice-Chair, Chair of Membership and Elections Committee, and Chair Elect. Tracy is a Bearcat alum having received her PhD from the UC College of Medicine in Systems Biology and Physiology where she studied smooth muscle and blood pressure regulation. She continues to advance her training at UC by completing a post-doctoral fellowship in Pharmacology and Cell Biophysics where she had the opportunity to investigate gene targeted therapies for heart failure. Dr. Pritchard has over 17 years of service at the university, holding a variety of roles. Dr. Pritchard is currently Assistant Dean for Integration at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Welcome, Dr. Pritchard, and thank you for being here.

Finally, Dr. Gregory Loving, who has returned to his role as Faculty Senate Representative, is a Professor of Philosophy, Religion, and History at Clermont College where he has taught since 1999. A past winner of the University Service Award, his service roles have included AAUP President, Department Chair, and University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate Chair. His latest academic project is *A Tale of Two Fronts: A German Soldier's Journey Through World War I*. He also writes and performs with the band No Consolation, which is made up entirely of UC Clermont faculty and staff. Welcome, Dr. Loving, and thank you for being here.

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Welcome to everyone.

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

Dr. Pinto:

Good morning, Chair Turner, board members, and everyone here. I would like to also add my welcome to the new members, Dr. Tracy Pritchard, our new Staff Senate Chair. I look forward to working with you and am very grateful for the time you're willing to devote to the service of our staff at the university. I know you're busy enough already as Assistant Dean in the College of Medicine but thank you for stepping up.

And of course, it wouldn't be a university without our students. It is wonderful to have Riya Patel here. Thank you for representing our students on this board. It's also good to see Dr. Loving back. Welcome back, Greg.

Today we are officially on day two of our fall semester. This week we're welcoming more than 54,000 students to our university. Yet again, that's the most in our university's history. For context, our university now educates 10,000 more students than it did in the fall of 2017 right before we launched our strategic direction, Next Lives Here.

Our sustained and significant growth is an outlier both in the state of Ohio and nationally. It's an outcome of our relentless pursuit of our vision to be one of the nation's leading urban public universities. The vision is brought to life by an outstanding team of dedicated professionals starting with our faculty who provide excellent educational programs that build a representation of this university as a destination for higher education. Our staff, across enrollment management, student affairs, housing facilities, and countless other units work tirelessly for the well-being of our

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students. My thanks to each and every one of you for all the work you've done in building up our reputation, our enrollment, and to meet our mission.

Our first-year class is 8,800 strong. They come from 82 of Ohio's 88 counties, 45 of our 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. They also come from 52 countries across the globe. This year the first day of class saw a 20 percent increase in first-generation students bringing our total at UC to more than 11,000 first-generation students. That speaks to the transformational work that this university is doing in our society.

Our first-year students are taking part in the Bearcats Welcome, which includes three weeks of community building events coordinated by Student Affairs. Our faculty have also been working hard to get ready for the new academic year. Last week I had the privilege of taking part in the shared governance symposium hosted by Faculty Senate. My thanks to Chair Tamika Odum for inviting me to participate. I enjoyed the opportunity to connect with members of Faculty Senate as we strive to build what's next together, which was the theme of the symposium.

As we start the fall semester, it is worth reflecting on the summer term that we just concluded. It was a summer filled with plenty of learning both by our students and our faculty. UC achieved the largest summer enrollment in Ohio, and for our faculty teaching these students decided it also advanced their research and professional development. Additionally, we held Summer Commencement, as you recall, earlier this month where we handed out 2,200 degrees, and I think we're on track for the academic year to have the largest number of graduates over the entire academic year. Not only are we bringing students in, but we're successfully getting them to graduate in higher and higher numbers.

We're looking forward to officially cutting the ribbon on our rebuilt Old Chemistry Building. The official opening will be on September 2. Students, undergraduates, and graduates

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are already using the brand new classrooms and labs. I was given a preview of the new space before the semester started. The transformation is truly stunning, and I encourage you to visit if you have a chance. Come to the opening and that's where you'll have an opportunity to tour the building. My congratulations to our planning, design, and construction team for leading this project and bringing it in on time for use by our students this fall. When I visited, just a few weeks before opening, I did not think they were going to finish on time, but they reassured me they were going to and they certainly did. It is yet another academic facility that will spiral learning and creativity. Remarkably, this is the tenth such opening of a major building focused on academics, research, or both since Next Lives Here was launched in 2018. We have truly transformed our campus.

I have provided you with a copy of my report highlighting some additional accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff since the last board meeting. I would encourage you to review it, board members, so that you get an appreciation for the wealth of talent and wealth of accomplishment that we have here at the university.

I do want to commend two of our faculty, Dr. Amy Townsend-Small from Arts and Sciences and Dr. Patrick Ray from the College of Engineering and Applied Science for being named University Chairs in the natural sciences with a particular focus on water climate and risk management. Our faculty are being recognized for their expertise at a global level.

On the opposite side of the report, you will find a select few media mentions to which UC faculty were cited in local and national news. As one example, the Dayton Daily News turned to Dr. Richard Harknett who directed the Ohio Cyber Range Institute and Director of UC's School of Public and International Affairs to provide context related to the influx of cyber-attacks in our

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society. With that, again, I encourage you to review. It is just a small sampling of the accomplishments of our university community.

And with that, I will conclude my report.

Mrs. Turner:

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 8:45 am and concluded at 9:00 am.

Mrs. Turner:

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

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 9:00 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

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

Mrs. Turner:

Are there any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve April 22, 2025, June 24, 2025, and July 25, 2025, Regular and Special Board Meeting Minutes?

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

AYE:	Monica Turner; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman; Gregory Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis; Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley
NAY:	None
ABSENT:	None

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you. The Minutes are approved.

Additional Action Item

Mrs. Turner:

Our next recommendation is the approval of the amendment of the head baseball coach's contract. John Cunningham, will you comment on this recommendation?

Mr. Cunningham:

Good morning. I'm excited today to recommend an extension to Coach Bischel's contract. It's a two-year extension. His current contract end in 2029. This will be an extension to 2031.

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Functionally, the contract moves Coach Bischel from the bottom of the Big 12 Conference and our conference peers in terms of salary to the middle of the conference. But more importantly, it also raises his buyout substantially and locks him in and creates some stability within that program to allow us to grow that program under his leadership. He's done a remarkable job and in two years walking into the Big 12 Conference with the increased competition in two years and has won more than 30 games both years. During his first year he had the opportunity to get all the way to a point where we were on the bubble. We probably should have made the NCAA tournament the first year but had incredible wins over Big 12 competition and came back this year energized and ready to go and won five of our last six conference series to get ourselves into the NCAA tournament.

It's the first time that our baseball program has been invited in the NCAA tournament as an at-large bid since 1974. It is only the seventh time that our program has ever appeared in the NCAA tournament. We won our first game against Wake Forest, had a viral moment at the end of the game against Tennessee when one of our great student athletes head back for the last time in his career, and the camera spans to Coach Bischel in the dugout, and you saw tears coming down his eyes as he got to see this great student athlete compete for the last time in college athletics, and it was something special for all of us.

It was one of the great moments of our year. It represents not just his winning culture, but it represents the type of person that he is. He's been a leader in our department in the last two years. The coaches in our department look up to him. He is somebody that I would bet on any day of the week in terms of being the right type of leader at the right time and he's a leader of men in all ways.

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I'm excited to ask for an extension of his contract. I think, again, it provides the stability we need right now for that program and allows us to compete at the highest level in the Big 12 under Coach Bischel's leadership.

Approval of the Items Recommended by the Board Committees

Mrs. Turner:

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

May I now have a motion to approve all the recommended items for Academic and Student Affairs, Finance and Administration, Governance and Internal Affairs, and the Non-Committee item?

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

- AYE:** Monica Turner; Ronald D. Brown; J. Phillip Holloman;
Gregory Hartmann; Jill McGruder; Shelly Gillis;
Steve Boymel; Kerry Byrne; Larry Sheakley
- NAY:** None
- ABSENT:** None

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you. These items are approved.

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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, Governance and Internal Affairs Committee, at their respective meetings and non-committee recommendations, today, August 26, 2025:

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

25.08.26.01 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

Anne Bauer, EdD	Professor Emerita College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services School of Education Effective August 1, 2025
Elaine Hollensbe, PhD	Professor Emerita Lindner College of Business Department of Management Effective August 15, 2025
John McAuliffe, III, MD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology Effective July 1, 2025
David Moore, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Effective August 1, 2025

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James Mulloy, PhD	Adjunct Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics Effective July 1, 2025
Diya Mutasim, MD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Dermatology Effective July 1, 2025
Ward Rice, MD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics Effective July 1, 2025
Lynn Ritchey, PhD	Professor Emerita UC Blue Ash College Department of Behavioral Science Effective January 5, 2026
Maureen Schomaker, MEd	Professor Emerita College of Cooperative Education and Professional Studies Department of Engineering and Applied Science Co-Op Effective September 1, 2025
Jerzy Stanek, MD, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Effective June 1, 2025
Susan Tyler, PhD	Associate Dean Emerita College of Medicine Effective July 1, 2025
Robin Wagner, DNP, APRN-CNS, CHSE	Associate Professor – Educator Emerita College of Nursing Department of Nursing Effective August 15, 2025
Monica Widdig, MBA, CPA	Professor Emerita UC Blue Ash College Department of Business and Economics Effective September 1, 2025

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Endowed Chair / Professorship Appointments

Robert Means, MD	The Joseph E. Palascak, MD, Endowed Chair in Bleeding and Clotting Disorders College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Effective August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2030
Elizabeth Laurens Steed, PhD	John and Gloria Goering Professorship in Family and Private Business Lindner College of Business Department of Management Effective August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2028
Debashis Pal, PhD	David Stinton Professor of Economics Lindner College of Business Department of Economics Effective August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2028
Achala Vagal, MD	Ben Felson Professor College of Medicine Department of Radiology Effective August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2030

Unit Head Appointments

Victoria LaPoe, PhD	Unit Head College of Arts and Sciences Department of Journalism Effective August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2030
Achala Vagal, MD	Chair College of Medicine Department of Radiology Effective August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2030

Unit Head Reappointments

Michael Ferguson, PhD	Unit Head Lindner College of Business Department of Accounting Effective August 15, 2026 – August 14, 2029
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College of Nursing

Kate York	Nursing	Effective 08/15/25
Mohammad Othman	Nursing	Effective 08/15/25
Amber Irwin	Nursing	Effective 08/15/25

James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy

Elizabeth Schlosser	Pharmacy	Effective 08/15/25
Daniel Arendt	Pharmacy	Effective 08/15/25

From Associate Professor of Clinical to Professor of Clinical

College of Medicine

Hillary Mount	Family & Community Medicine	Effective 09/01/26
Nives Zimmerman	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine	Effective 09/01/26
Karen Burns	Pediatrics	Effective 08/26/25
Phillip Minar	Pediatrics	Effective 08/26/25

College of Nursing

Paul Lewis	Advanced Practice Nursing	Effective 08/15/25
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From Research Instructor to Research Assistant Professor

College of Medicine

Oluwabukola Gbotosho	Neurology & Rehabilitation Medicine	Effective 09/01/26
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From Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor

College of Medicine

Hee Woong Lim	Pediatrics	Effective 08/26/25
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From Instructor Educator to Assistant Professor Educator

College of Arts and Sciences

Kevser Erdem	Mathematical Sciences	Effective 08/15/25
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From Assistant Professor Educator to Associate Professor Educator

College of Allied Health Sciences

Karen Craven	Rehabilitation, Exercise & Nutrition Sciences	Effective 08/15/25
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College of Arts and Sciences

Alfred Cotton	Journalism	Effective 08/15/25
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College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning

Whitney Hamaker	Architecture & Interior Design	Effective 08/15/25
Shilpa Mehta	Planning	Effective 08/15/25

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Paul Gordon	Biomedical Engineering	Effective 08/15/25
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Lindner College of Business

Michael Wagner	Management	Effective 08/15/25
Robert Rokey	Operations, Business Analytics & Information Sys	Effective 08/15/25

UC Clermont College

Carolyn Shisler	Science & Health	Effective 08/15/25
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From Associate Professor Educator to Professor Educator

College of Medicine

Benjamin Kinnear	Pediatrics	Effective 08/26/25
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Lindner College of Business

David Rapien	Operations, Business Analytics & Information Sys	Effective 08/15/25
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UC Clermont College

Brenda Poynter	Science & Health	Effective 08/15/25
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From Assistant Professor Practice to Associate Professor Practice

College of Arts and Sciences

Michael Gasaway	Communication, Film & Media Studies	Effective 08/15/25
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From Field Service Associate Professor to Field Service Professor

College of Medicine

Jennifer Frey	Pediatrics	Effective 08/26/25
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From Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian

College of Law

Ashley Russell	Law Library	Effective 08/15/25
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UC Libraries

Nimisha Bhat	UC Libraries	Effective 08/15/25
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From Assistant Professor Adjunct Rep to Associate Professor Adjunct Rep

College of Allied Health Sciences

Amu De Silva	Rehabilitation, Exercise & Nutrition Sciences	Effective 08/15/25
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25.08.26.02 Approval of New Undergraduate Degree – Bachelor of Hospitality Management – Joint Degree Program – UC Clermont and UC Blue Ash

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Bachelor's in Hospitality Management degree, shared by UC Clermont and UC Blue Ash. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

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25.08.26.03 Approval of New Undergraduate Degree – Associate of Applied Science in Rural Population Health – UC Clermont

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Associate of Applied Science in Rural Population Health at UC Clermont. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

25.08.26.04 Approval of Reorganization/Renaming of Academic Units – College of Nursing

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the elimination of the three academic units in the College of Nursing and the reversion back to a single unit college structure. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.

25.08.26.05 Approval of Low Enrollment and Duplicate Program Report

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the report in Response to the Ohio Department of Higher Education mandate. Section 3345.35 of the Ohio Revised Code requires that the Boards of Trustees of each state institution of higher education evaluate all courses and programs based on enrollment and duplication with other state institutions of higher education.

B. Finance and Administration Committee

25.08.26.06 Approval of Central Utility Plant Chiller #5

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve \$7.5 million to fund The replacement of Chiller #5 and associated electric at the Central Utility Plant.

25.08.26.07 Approval of Medical Science Building Classrooms Renovation

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve \$12,000,000 to fund the Medical Science Building Classrooms Renovation.

25.08.26.08 Approval of University Pavilion 500 Level Renovation

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve \$9,200,000 to fund The University Pavilion 500 Level Renovation.

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25.08.26.09 Approval of Naming Recommendation: Bearcats Den

Synopsis: It is recommended that the UC Board of Trustees approve the name *Bearcat's Den*.

25.08.26.10 Approval of Naming Recommendation: C.A.T.S. Lounge

Synopsis: It is recommended that the UC Board of Trustees approve the name *C.A.T.S. Lounge*.

25.08.26.11 Approval of Naming Recommendation: Drs. Megan and Michael Thomas Chair's Conference Room

Synopsis: It is recommended that the UC Board of Trustees approve the name *Drs. Megan and Michael Thomas Chair's Conference Room*.

25.08.26.12 Approval of Naming Recommendation: Indoor Practice Facility Athlete Performance Center Various Naming #3

Synopsis: It is recommended that the UC Board of Trustees approve the following naming opportunities for the new Indoor Practice Facility & Athlete Performance Center:

1. Bill Graves 1956-1959 Defensive Line Room
2. Washburn Family Assistant Athletic Trainer Office
3. Lee and Cindy Mairose Assistant Athletic Trainer Office
4. Kelce Brothers Field or Kelce Field
5. Special Assistant to the Head Coach Office supported by Dan and Julia Poston
6. Miliano Family Special Teams Meeting Room
7. Schimberg Family Defensive Line Meeting Room

C. Governance and Internal Affairs Committee

25.08.26.13 Approval of Resolution Exempting Trustees from Access to Classified Information

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees resolve to exclude all Trustees, including the Student Trustee, from being required to access or have access to classified information.

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25.08.26.14 Approval of Appointment to UC Health, LLC Board of Directors

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following appointment of David A. Gerber, MD, to the UC Health, LLC Board.

D. Non-Committee Items

25.08.26.15 Approval of Amendment of the Head Baseball Coaches Contract

Synopsis: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Amendment of the Head Baseball Coaches Contract.

Unfinished Business and New Business

Mrs. Turner:

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

Graduate Student Report

Mr. Lampton:

Thank you and good morning, Chair Turner, President Pinto, board members, representatives and guests. I would like to start by continuing to welcome Riya here as our undergraduate student trustee. I am very excited for her and the 40,000 plus undergraduate students that get to be represented by her. You're joining at an important, meaningful time. I'm here to help and support how I can. I can personally attest there's a lot of great people at this table ready to guide and support you as well.

As we start our 2025-2026 academic year, I would like to highlight some adaptations that have been made to equip students for success during these times of transition. First, our Student Affairs team has done an incredible job to strategically move us forward with creative strategies

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that build community and support on campus with the opening of spaces like the Bearcats Den and C.A.T.S Lounge.

These spaces are designed to provide holistic support for students while cultivating areas of belonging and network building. Beyond offering resources, they will serve as hubs where students can connect with peers, access mentorship, and develop both academically and personally. Programs have also been launched to ensure UC remains accessible, including one specifically focused on assisting students who are also parents and caregivers, which is a resource particularly relevant to many graduate students.

Similarly, Counseling and Psychological Services has expanded access by offering free services to all students and enabling online scheduling through Rapid Access Counseling. This serves as a meaningful step in continuing to reduce barriers that can inhibit student success while providing valuable and accessible support.

Additionally, the Ethics, Compliance, and Community Impact, led by Dr. Bleuzette Marshall, will provide supportive resolution strategies, promote trust and safety, and offer training and development opportunities across campus. Dr. Marshall's continued leadership within this area exemplifies fairness, dedication, and commitment to supporting students and colleagues at UC while leaving a meaningful impact on the community.

Finally, as we begin a new year in the wake of changes, continuing to move forward with a focus on implementing compassionate strategies across campus will help ensure that all members of the UC community feel heard and supported. Through endurance, innovation, and care in focusing on what we can control, we can continue to cultivate campus environments where student engagement and leadership naturally grow from the collaborative communities that have been fostered and developed. This concludes my report.

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Mrs. Turner:

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

Undergraduate Student Report

Ms. Patel:

Hello, Chair Turner, members of the board, President Pinto, cabinet members, and guests. It is an honor to stand before you today as the next undergraduate student representative on the board. My name is Riya Patel, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to represent my peers, colleagues, and friends. Throughout my term I'm committed to uplifting the student voice, celebrating the achievements of our Bearcat community, and working alongside university leaders to ensure UC continues to thrive.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending UC's Summer Commencement ceremony, where more than 2,200 graduates were recognized. This number is far more than a statistic; it represents a community of scholars whose talents and passions define the character of UC. From fields as diverse as engineering and the arts to business and medicine, these graduates embody the promise that, with determination and persistence, anything is possible. The ceremony was filled with joy and pride, but it was also a powerful reminder of the resilience and dedication that distinguish our students. From watching my own teaching assistant walk across the stage, to connecting with new alumni, this moment underscored for me how each Bearcat contributes to the university's legacy, leaving a lasting mark that strengthens our future.

As we welcome students back for the start of the 2025–2026 academic year, excitement once again fills our campus. Our annual Welcome Week has brought students together in

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celebration, offering events that encourage connection, aid discovery, and foster a sense of belonging. Student Affairs has hosted a variety of activities, including the Move-In Munchies, Bearcat Welcome Trivia, and the Student Wellness Center Open House. These activities will ease the transition as incoming and returning students prepare to move in. Even students who live off campus can take this time to familiarize themselves with the newly updated commuter student lounge. Additionally, the Center for Student Involvement recently hosted the Biannual Involvement Fair, where students explored the hundreds of organizations that bring UC to life beyond the classroom.

In the months ahead, I look forward to working diligently alongside student organizations and communities to ensure their concerns, perspectives, and aspirations are heard. I am inspired by the resilience of our student body and am committed to collaborating with my fellow trustees and university leaders to strengthen the overall student experience.

Thank you, Chair Turner. This concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

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

Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Odum:

Thank you, Chair Turner, President Pinto, members of the board, and guests for this opportunity to give a report on behalf of the university faculty and Faculty Senate. My report this morning is filled with a spirit of hope as we begin the academic year. We ended the term feeling

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frustrated and unheard. However, faculty has spent the summer working with key administrators in hopes of turning a path forward, a path grounded in shared governance.

On August 9 I sent a message on behalf of the faculty to the President asking leadership to work together with faculty to shape the future of UC. Our message was met with enthusiasm and a sincere desire to work collaboratively. In the next few weeks, faculty senate cabinet members will meet with the president and the provost to discuss shared priorities, build trust, and set a clear direction for improved relationships between faculty and administration.

As we build a path forward, we hope to tackle concerns of faculty including Senate Bill 1 implementation, transparency and communication, commitment to shared governance, leadership presence, and faculty morale. Ensuring faculty are heard and valued will result in a strong learning experience for students and a campus community where our students can thrive. Our shared goal is clear: Uphold academic excellence and ensure that our university continues to thrive as a place of learning, innovation, and belonging.

One way we are advancing this shared goal is through dialogue. On August 20 Faculty Senate hosted the second annual Shared Governance Symposium. The Symposium was designed to help Senate learn the importance of shared governance and give them tools to successfully serve in their roles as senators and representatives to the university and Faculty Senate committees. This year's theme, *From Chaos to Change, Building What's Next Together*, embodies a more intentional approach to shared governance where faculty are active participants in building the future of UC. With more than 60 attendees throughout the day including representatives from Staff Senate, undergraduate and grad student governance, and many senior administrators, the day was filled with engaging workshops, panel discussions, and presentations.

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Our first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year was also held on August 20. We had several informational items to discuss, and we look forward to reviewing the new faculty appeals process and providing more insight to strengthen the policies that affect the academic mission of the university.

As I end my final year as Chair of university faculty and Faculty Senate, I find myself reflecting on the responsibility that comes with serving in this role. A responsibility I do not take lightly. I am committed to advocating on behalf of a unified university. It is my hope that this year embodies the spirit of collaboration and continues to demonstrate our collective commitment to working together alongside students, faculty, and staff to advance the mission of the university. Together we are stronger.

Thank you and that concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

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

Staff Senate Report

Dr. Pritchard:

Good morning, Chair Turner, members of the board, President Pinto, and guests. Thank you for the warm welcome this morning. I'm pleased to present the report on behalf of the Staff Senate outlining the initiatives and priority areas for the upcoming year as I embark on my term as Staff Senate Chair.

First, I would like to acknowledge and commend Dr. Brandi Elliott for her unwavering leadership over the past two years as Staff Senate Chair. Her steadfast commitment to staff has

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outlined an exemplary path to continuing the initiatives by which her leadership has provided a strong foundation. We are fortunate to have her continued expertise and insights in her role as past Chair as she remains an integral part of our Cabinet.

Staff Senate is embarking on a new year with 72 dedicated senators. Our senators participated in an orientation on August 13 where they were onboarded to the role of their staff senator. They also held kickoff meetings with respective committees. We outlined committee priorities for the upcoming year. Interim Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Weidner, was our keynote speaker. He outlined priorities for the year from the Provost's Office.

As we look ahead, we'll be continuing several priorities and launching new ones as well. Common themes throughout this planning process were staff wellness, staff engagement, policy review, and communication. Continued priorities for the year include conducting a staff pulse check to understand the experience of staff in aligning our programming with staff feedback and needs; raising awareness of our Staff Senate feedback form, which is our tool for staff to express concerns, as well as recognize their peers; formalizing a communication strategy to optimize outreach to our staff including continuation of a Staff Senate newsletter that was initiated this past year; continuing UC Serves sustainability planning; reviewing our apportionment processes and membership guidelines; as well as continuing our shared governance initiatives across Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, undergraduate student government, and graduate student government.

New initiatives this year include launching the Staff Experience Engagement and Connection Ad Hoc Committee. This is a new committee with the charge of considering and voicing staff views on issues relating to fairness, campus involvement, and aspirational practices that impact the university; promoting an understanding of existing policies and processes;

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encouraging engagement with training opportunities to foster an environment of high performance, engagement, and trust while empowering our staff; partnering with HR around communication of the initiatives to be rolled out this year including staff onboarding, staff wellness and the job architecture project implementation; and lastly, identifying and offering staff connection and engagement opportunities. I look forward to the year ahead, and I'm excited to see the continued growth of our initiatives, and the engagement in our staff community.

This concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

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

Student Government Report

Mr. Copley:

Good morning, Chairwoman Turner, board members, President Pinto, and guests. As we begin a new academic year, I'm excited to share an update on the work the undergraduate student government has been doing throughout the summer and into the start of the fall.

Over the summer our executive team worked tirelessly to fill vacant positions across our organization. I am proud to share student government now has over 200 members including representatives within our college tribunals and boards.

Looking ahead we're preparing to welcome 30 first-year students into our First-Year Leadership Council, which will provide them with opportunities to grow as leaders early in their college journey.

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During the summer months our senate remained active holding three formal meetings. Across the sessions we passed 17 bills. This included funding allocations for upcoming fall events and important updates to tribunal constitutions and bylaws to align with university code and legislation that increases funding for each registered organization through our university funding board.

At the beginning of the fall semester, my Vice-President Wilaini Alicea, and I had the privilege of speaking at Bearcat Kickoff which was formally Convocation. Student Government was able to participate in several major campus traditions hosted by registered student organizations including Akwaaba and Big Queer Welcome, as well as our Fall Involvement Affair hosted by the Student Activities Board. I was honored to see the events continue this year as we highlight and honor the diverse Bearcat community. These events are often first experiences for incoming students. It was inspiring to see their excitement as they joined our campus.

To further support new and returning students, we're hosting Find My Classroom tables during the first week of classes. These provide a simple but important resource for students navigating campus buildings and classrooms. In addition, we are preparing for our off-campus Housing Fair and Farmers Market, both of which connect students with resources and opportunities.

With the start of the new academic year, we are presented with the opportunity to launch new initiatives, strengthen the process we achieved last year, and reflect on areas where we can continue to grow. Each year brings with it a renewed commitment to enhancing student experience and advancing the mission of our university.

As we move into this new chapter, I encourage us to remain mindful of the importance of community. Supporting one another through collaboration and respect as well as accountability

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ensures every member of our campus has the ability to thrive. Equally important is our commitment to transparency. By continuing to engage in honest and constructive dialogue, we're better equipped to identify challenges and celebrate successes which chart a path forward that reflects the values of our institution.

Together I believe we can make this year one of meaningful progress, innovation, and shared achievement further strengthening the University of Cincinnati as a place where students, faculty, staff, and community partners can succeed.

Thank you and this concludes my report.

Mrs. Turner:

Thank you, Joshua.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Mrs. Turner:

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

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Mrs. Turner:

Motion carries. Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

MONICA TURNER
CHAIRPERSON

JILL MCGRUDER
SECRETARY