

# UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

## Official Proceedings of the

### Three Hundred and Fiftieth Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(A Special Meeting)

December 17, 2016

The Three Hundred and Fiftieth Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 17, 2016, in the College Conservatory of Music at 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*.

Robert E. Richardson Jr., Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Mr. Richardson asked that roll be called.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas D. Cassady, William C. Portman, III, Ronald D. Brown, Robert E. Richardson Jr., Margaret K. Valentine, Geraldine B. Warner, Kim Heiman, Phil Collins, Tom Mischell

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Robert F. Ambach, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance;  
William Ball, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, Dean College of Medicine;  
Peter Landgren, Interim Provost & Senior Vice President Academic Affairs;  
Karen Kovach, Interim General Counsel  
Ryan Hays, Executive Vice President;  
Mitchell Phelps, Student Body President;  
Sally Moomaw, Faculty Senate Chair;  
Mike Bohn, Director of Athletics;  
Bleuzette Marshall, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion  
Debra Merchant, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs;

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

Christine Ackerman, Associate Vice President and  
Director of Internal Audit;  
Nelson Vincent, Vice President and Chief  
Information Officer for Technology;  
Rod Grabowski, Vice President for Development  
and Alumni Relations;  
Rebecca Leugers, Faculty Representative;  
Greg Loving, Faculty Representative;  
Richard A. Miller, Professor, College of  
Engineering and Applied Sciences;  
Greg Vehr, Vice President Government Relations  
and University Communications;  
Nicole Blount, Executive Assistant to the Board of  
Trustees;  
and the public

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mr. Richardson:

Good morning everyone, thank you all for being here today. Today is a very special day at the University of Cincinnati. The Board of Trustees will consider the appointment of the 30<sup>th</sup> President of the University.

Before doing so, we would like to recognize a number of people first, Interim President Davenport, for her dedication to maintaining the university's momentum and carrying its vision forward.

To the Presidential Search Committee members who have worked diligently over the summer months, I very much appreciate their dedication, commitment and their hard work.

Also, we thank the Faculty, Students, Staff, Alumni, and all members of the University community for their support and understanding during this process and in the coming leadership transition.

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

Now that the efforts of the Search Committee have been realized and the process is nearly complete – we turn our thoughts to the future.

Mr. Cassady:

Mr. Chairman, I move that effective February 2017 that Neville G. Pinto be appointed the 30<sup>th</sup> President of the University of Cincinnati.

Mr. Richardson:

Thank you, Tom. Do I have a second?

Mr. Portman:

I second the motion.

Mr. Richardson:

Trustees, the floor is open for comments/discussion.

Mr. Cassady:

We value the breadth and depth of your experience in higher education-as a former Department Head, Vice Provost, Dean, Provost and acting President.

Mrs. Heiman:

We respect your reputation as a distinguished researcher and full professor; your commitment to teaching excellence; and your belief in the power and promise of interdisciplinary partnerships.

Mr. Portman:

We recognize your working knowledge of the Academic Health Center and our goals related to achieving NCI designation; and your sincere interest to partner with UC Health and Children's Hospital to collectively better our best.

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

Mr. Brown:

It is your deep understanding of research, innovation, commercialization and industry partnerships; and your vision for helping move our research institute, UCRI, to the next level.

Mrs. Warner:

We value your record of partnering with elected officials to enhance and expand investments in higher education; and your keen understanding of the state and federal issues affecting public universities.

Mr. Mischell:

Your experience in leveraging fundraising and corporate relations to drive academic priorities is excellent; along with your understanding of the importance and impact of our next comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Mrs. Valentine:

We recognize your experience in overseeing a Power 5 athletics program; your passion for the growth and well-being of student-athletes; and your desire to best position UC to compete at the highest level.

Mr. Collins:

We see your love of the City and your belief in its upward trajectory; your deep admiration of and appreciate for the University's urban-serving mission; and your excitement about the unique opportunities associated with the University's Bicentennial celebration in 2019.

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

*Brief comments were then provided by Mr. Mitchell Phelps, Student Government President; and Dr. Richard Miller, College of Engineering and Applied Science.*

Upon motion of Mr. Cassady, and a second by Mr. Portman, roll call vote was taken:

**AYE:** Robert E. Richardson Jr.; Thomas Cassady; William C. Portman, Ronald D. Brown; Geraldine Warner; Margaret K. Valentine; Kim Heiman; Phil Collins; and Tom Mischell.

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mr. Richardson:

Congratulations, on behalf of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees we welcome Neville Pinto as the University of Cincinnati's next President and we look forward to working with you to continue the upward momentum of the University.

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, thank you very much. Well good morning folks and I'm going to do a dangerous thing here, I'm going to go off-script because I want to be genuine. So where's Ryan? Ryan's probably sweating somewhere, but I'm going to go off-script. I just can't describe the feeling at this point. I just can't describe how meaningful this is to me; to come back to the institution that nurtured me as a faculty member and asked to lead this institution.

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

I'm so moved by this and I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for placing this huge responsibility in me.

Thank you, Chairman Rob Richardson for your leadership on this. My commitment to you is that I will deliver on the responsibility to the best of my ability with a true commitment to what is so important at this university: the students. You know, now that you've actually approved my presidency here, I can tell you the one little simple question, and I think I said this to you during the interview I had, that is simply the question I always ask, and that's pretty much my, if I had to write a book on leading universities, this would be the one line in the book: "Is it good for the students?" That's how I make all my decisions. And that's all. That's my leadership style and it's incredible how easy it is to lead an institution with that clarity. Thank you again for placing the responsibility on me and I look forward to working with the faculty, the staff, the community, donors, and friends of the university in moving us forward.

I would also like to thank the Presidential Search Committee; they put me through the wringer and you know that was a good thing, because if you hadn't, that would have said something about the institution. It was a very robust, very rigorous process and I was exhausted at the end of it. It was like going to Disney World, you know where you're exhausted and that's the whole point of it. And that's what this was because it was like a Disney World. It was about meeting old friends, making new friends, and recognizing how important this institution is to each one of those individuals, reaffirming what I had learned over 26 years ago at this institution. It's what made me and it's what made me effective at my current institution, the University of Louisville.

I want to thank President Davenport who isn't here today, but I want to thank her for stewarding the institution so well through this interim period. I am grateful for that and I want to

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

thank Provost Peter Landgren for his terrific work during this period. And I don't see Dean McClung here. I'm not good at crowds and I can't identify but, where is he? Oh he's right upstairs. Thank you for allowing us to do this in this terrific facility.

I'll give you a little secret--we're Bearcats in more ways than just sports fans. We're bearcats when we show up here. My wife gets our tickets every year and we still drive two hours here and two hours back to see a show at CCM. So thank you for all the great work you guys do.

So, why is this job important to me? I think it should be important to all of us for the simple reason that we're in challenging times as we look across our state, our country, and the world. We recognize that we're in times of turbulence, we're in times of conflict, but we all recognize that education unleashes the human potential and the solution to our problems for a better world and is that human potential. To me, universities have a special role in society and an extraordinary role in society-educating the next generation of leaders and citizens. It's about opening hearts and opening minds and I know that this institution is committed to those principles. It is here that I learned about the importance of public education, the recognition that the path of many of my students was very dissimilar from mine. To understand that I had privilege in my life, and it wasn't anything special that I did that got me there. I had a lot of support around me and I had little to worry about. That is not the path of many students and it is our responsibility in higher education to ensure that access to higher education, particularly this gold standard of higher education, which is the teacher-scholar model, what we call the research institution, is available to all regardless of where they come from: a big city or a small city, the inner-city; it doesn't really matter. They should have access to this if they're qualified. And I know this institution is committed to that principle. This is where I learned it, this is where I

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

took it to my current institution, which has very similar values, and I hope to bring that back manifold when I lead this institution.

What I have seen in terms of where this institution has gone over the past five years I've have been away, a little over five years, I am amazed by the progress that you have made. The growth of this institution is remarkable. The number of students who want to come here and the quality of students who want to come here, the research, the way it's grown, and the aspects that now connect to the real needs of society is impressive. The growth of the clinical work that we do here. We drive through this city many times as we go to different parts of the country and when I see UC Health as it shows up now in Northern Kentucky, you know that starts to worry me at the University of Louisville, and now I don't have to worry about it anymore. But that's the sort of impact that this institution is making on our community.

And so as I look forward and I think about the challenges that higher education should face, and some of these were mentioned as the Board of Trustees very graciously talked about what I had done. But when I look at what we have to face when we move forward, we have a world and country that is becoming more diverse. It is important that in order to strengthen our country that we recognize that we have a commitment to educating that population as it changes.

Education is becoming unaffordable to most and our role has to be to advocate for continuing public investment in higher education. But our responsibility also has to be to think about how our world is changing and how our university needs to change and in fact exploit the opportunity to move to the very top echelons of higher education. The world is becoming digital. It's becoming connected. What will a university look like in 30 years? If we start wrestling with that question now and we start to push in a direction we believe in to fulfill our mission, we're

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

going to break out from the crowd, and that's what I would like to seed in terms of thinking among our faculty and staff as we move forward.

There's so much here in this community, this city is so special to us, all my three children were born here, and my wife was born in Cleveland. Although they constantly remind me that, the four of them, that Ohio is their state, and that maybe they'd let me in once in a while, but I'm so glad to call this state and this city as my home. And I've always considered it my home. It's been so good to me, and when we look at the history of this university, we recognize that its origins come in the values of the people of this city. The origin is in the value of education and recognizing that if a city had to be consequential, it had to have a good university. And this is the University for the city, and connecting with our community is so important. And that's what I learned here, some years ago as you remember, as we defined our university as an urban research university. And I reflected on that and experienced that and thought about *What does that mean?* And I think I know what that means now. It means that all of the potential that we have here at this university, all of the intellectual potential and the capacity to solve problems could be focused on challenges and opportunities in our city and in our region. And that could be a unique way in which we define our scholarships, using the city as a living and learning laboratory. And I look forward to that exciting challenge to connect with the community, to build those relationships, to cement relationships that we have, and move this university forward.

Now, I was told to keep this short, and I think I've already gone well over my allotted time, have I Rob? But I'll just finish now and I'll wind up. I'll just say first of all, thank you all for coming here today. It is tremendous support on a Saturday that's rainy and I believe icy. I was driven around today so I don't know what it's like to drive. But, it's icy and you came here and I appreciate that. But, I have to also tell you where my strength comes from. I have faced, as

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DECEMBER SEVENTEEN** **TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN**

I expect I will face here at UC, many challenges in my life. But I want to give a tremendous amount of credit to the woman sitting in the first row there, my wife. She has been my support through my entire career and I thank her very much for that and expect that even though you've just appointed me, you don't know what you've got in her. So I'm just telling you, just wait and see. But thank you very much.

And now I'll wind up by just saying again, thank you for your confidence in me. I fully intend to live up to my charge. I'll just finish by saying, Go Bearcats!

Mr. Richardson:

Thank you so much. With no further business, may I have a motion to adjourn?

*Upon a motion called by Mrs. Valentine and a second by Mr. Mischell, roll call vote was taken.*

**AYE:** Robert E. Richardson Jr.; Thomas Cassady; William C. Portman; Geraldine Warner; Ronald D. Brown; Margaret K. Valentine; Kim Heiman; Phil Collins; and Tom Mischell.

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Meeting adjourned.



ROBERT RICHARDSON JR.  
CHAIRPERSON



WILLIAM C. PORTMAN III  
SECRETARY