

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Official Proceedings of the

Four Hundred and Twenty-First Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(A Regular Meeting)

April 21, 2026

The Four Hundred and Twenty First Session of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati was opened at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in the Digital Futures Building of the University of Cincinnati. Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. The proceedings of the Board, when not otherwise provided for by its bylaws, are governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

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

Mr. Hartmann asked that roll be called.

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

**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;

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Everrett A. Smith, Faculty Senate;  
Tracy Pritchard, University Staff Senate  
Joshua Copley, Student Body President  
Wilaini Alicea, Student Body President Elect  
Nicole Blount, Executive Director of Board  
Relations;  
and the public

**THE BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

*(Proceedings of the Board committee meetings are contained in the respective committee meeting minutes, which are on file in the Office of the Board of Trustees.)*

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

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 8:31 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

Mr. Hartmann:

Good morning, everyone. I'd like to welcome you to the board meeting for this morning. Trustee Steve Boymel and Trustee Sheakley are joining virtually today. Let me begin by acknowledging the newest face to the table. Wilaini Alicea was elected as UC's newest undergraduate president and will join us for the next year. She is a third-year international affairs and criminal justice major. Thank you for your service and congratulations. We're looking forward to working with you, Wilaini.

We also wish to say farewell to Joshua Copley. Thanks for all you've done for our students at the University of Cincinnati during your term, Josh. On behalf of the board, we wish you the

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very best. Please accept this token of our appreciation for your time spent advocating for students and partnering with staff and faculty. [Applause]

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

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Chair Hartmann. Good morning, everyone. Thank you for being here today. I'd like to also add my farewell and thanks to Joshua Copley. Your leadership of student government and all the time and effort you put into it, I know you put your heart and soul into the role and worked very hard in particular your efforts to improve student well-being. Also, congratulations on your upcoming graduation. I will see you at Commencement. Thank you, Josh.

And now for the first time I can recall, we have an immediate past present, at least my term, in my nine years, immediate past Vice President stepping into the role as President of student government. Welcome Wilaini Alicea. We look forward to working closely with you and our students over the next year. Thank you both for your leadership.

As we reach the end of the semester, we look ahead to our Commencement ceremonies. This year we hold four ceremonies over two days. Two inside at Fifth Third Arena on April 30 for our doctoral and master's graduates and two undergraduate ceremonies in Nippert Stadium on May 1. You recall last year we had four ceremonies. All four ceremonies were held in Fifth Third. We now need to use our football stadium. In total we will hand out 7,979 degrees. This is 342 more than our previous record last spring. We will add nearly 8,000 new degrees into our community of 360,000 alumni.

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Graduation is always a special time, a defining moment when our purpose as an institution crystallizes. I hope many of you will be able to join us to celebrate with our students and families.

This has been an active spring semester across our university. Since our last regular meeting, I shared the State of the University with faculty and staff where I outlined many important topics. First, I reported on our progress on the Next Lives Here strategic direction and described the details about campus transformation and the next steps in this transformation. I also provided the specter of higher education trends and societal needs and how we need to think about our future as a university.

Additionally, this spring we had strong engagement with our alumni community. Earlier this month we gathered with our alumni and partners at Medpace, as part of the Bearcats Connect series hosted by the UC Alumni Association. Medpace employs 736 UC graduates. We have a global workforce of 6,000, and 12 percent of the workforce are UC graduates. Many of their senior leaders are also Bearcats and have an impact in our community in providing the talent needed to advance organizations across our city. The event was a wonderful opportunity to highlight and strengthen our co-op program, as well as their engagement as a major clinical research partner. Medpace supports hundreds of pharmaceutical trials each year while collaborating closely with the College of Medicine.

Just last week we also celebrated Alumni Week at our annual Alumni Celebration recognizing outstanding graduates whose accomplishments reflect the impact of a UC education. I had the pleasure of introducing our William Howard Taft medalist, Vinod Dham, widely known as the father of the Pentium Chip, and helped with the development of microprocessors at Intel that power a global revolution. His work fundamentally changed how the world communicates,

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works, and innovates, bringing computing to everyday life at scale. His career reflects the kind of global impact that begins with a UC education and expands far beyond our campus.

I also spent time recently recognizing excellence among both our faculty and staff. Our all-university Staff Excellence Awards provided an opportunity to honor the individuals who bring our mission to life each day through their teaching, research, and service. We have also continued to build momentum and research innovation. On April 13, we welcomed Thales, a global leader of advanced technologies to our Digital Futures Building. This is a partnership that strengthens our position in artificial intelligence and aerospace innovation.

I have provided you with a printed version of my report highlighting some key accomplishments since the last board meeting. Let me just focus on a couple. Earlier this month a student-built satellite successfully launched from Kennedy's Space Center marking Ohio's first student-built satellite in space and remarkable achievement by our CubeCats program. This team has been working on this satellite for a decade. Consecutive groups of students have picked up on the previous generation and built a satellite, and they are now in the history books as the first student group in Ohio to launch a cube satellite.

We also announced the creation of a new Addiction Center in partnership with UC Health bringing together experts from five colleges to expand research, improve treatment, and train the next generation of specialists.

On the back of the report, we have examples of UC headlines from around the world highlighting the work of our faculty experts. For example, Newsweek spoke with Suzie White, Assistant Professor in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services about her

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research related to declining happiness in the United States. White pointed to social isolation, increased stress, and weaker community connections as key factors.

This now brings me to this morning's presentation. It is with great pleasure that I'd like to introduce Luke Burroughs, Program Director and Associate Professor in Dental Hygiene at our UC Blue Ash Campus. Luke joined UC in 2015 and has served as Program Director since 2021 leading efforts in both education and community engagement including work to improve oral health on notable populations and contributed to state-wide training standings. Joining him today, are two of his students who will be graduating this semester. Kenzy Strotman and Katie Shane are with us. Please join me in welcoming Professor Burroughs and his students.

**PRESENTATION**

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

Mr. Burroughs:

Good morning, Chair Hartmann, members of the board, President Pinto, and guests. We are so thrilled to be with you this morning, and we thank you for welcoming us to join you. I especially am thrilled to have two outstanding students with us today who will be graduating next Friday.

Ms. Shane:

Good morning, everyone. I'm Katie Shane.

Ms. Strotman:

I'm Kenzy Strotman.

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Mr. Burroughs:

I'm Luke Burroughs, from the UC Blue Ash Dental Hygiene program. It's a special time for us to share with you some of the community impact that we have. You may have seen us in the news a couple of months ago. We had our Annual Community Dental Day. We've been holding this for about ten years, and we provide free services to members of the community who otherwise would not get dental care. We partner with our expanded function dental auxiliary program or after program, along with about a dozen dentists in the community who just give their time with a lot of other dental staff, our students, and our faculty. They all join together. For this last event, we provided over \$66,000 in free dental care to 166 people.

Community Dental Day was an amazing experience for us to provide dental care to people who otherwise have not been able to receive that care. Patients were able to select one thing they thought they needed the most whether it was a cleaning, filling, or abstraction.

Another thing you may have heard that happened last year is we had an amazing renovation to our clinic. It was a very extensive, very expensive undertaking and it's totally transformed. We needed about \$1.25 million dollars to replace our dental chairs and technology that goes with them, to upgrade the medical cabinetry, to renovate our internationalization room, and we were far short of this. I want to give a special thank you to President Pinto for helping find the remaining funding we needed for Next Lives Here, and to Dean Weidner and the UC Foundation for giving money from the Provost Office and multiple other sources and came up with the funds from different sources and the clinic has transformed. The patients love it. It's a great place for them to receive treatment. The students love it. It's a great place for them to learn, and that's just the physical setting for our education, but there's a lot more that goes behind our program.

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Our faculty do a wonderful job in preparing our students to assess patients and provide comprehensive dental hygiene care. Our program is an associate of applied science program. After two years of rigorous study and passing lots of board exams, our students are licensed in the state. They're licensed like a registered nurse or a physician, or a dentist and they become the prevention specialists on the dental team.

We have to take lots of national exams including our national board exam, a clinic simulation exam, Ohio State dental lab test, and a local anesthesia exam. The program is challenging, and we get lots of support from the university and donors. This past week a retired hygienist that graduated from UC, her and her husband did a tour of the clinic and generously donated \$20,000 to me, and it was divided evenly among my classmates to help alleviate some costs of our board exams.

We have all these community outreach programs but day after day our students, Katie and Kenzy and their classmates, are treating underserved and uninsured patients in our clinic. Every year we calculate that we provide about \$1.5 million of care to our patients, and they pay a nominal fee if they're able to, but they receive oral exams, oral cancer screenings, X rays, dental cleanings, periodontal treatment, which can be extremely expensive, local anesthesia, if they need it, and our students do a wonderful job providing all of that care.

A couple of other initiatives we have are UC Smiles. This has been going on longer than Community Dental Day, since 2012. Several times a year we welcome children from area schools who don't have access to care. For some of them, it's their first dental visit ever. They come and receive free cleanings and oral hygiene instruction. We even give them a tour of the campus. Some of them may be the first ones in their family to go to college someday, so they envision themselves as future Bearcats. We started a Veterans Dental Day, which is a wonderful

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opportunity to give back to the veterans once a year in the fall. It's wonderful to know I'm able to provide this compassionate care to these kids and these veterans. It is important every day to maintain their oral health. You want people to have a healthy mouth and body the rest of their lives, and we give them the tools. As these are some of these kids' very first cleaning they've received, being able to teach them those things is really important.

We have a lot of outreach activities right there in the clinic in Blue Ash, but our students also go all over the community. They do a lot of elementary school teachings, high school teachings, and any adult group, nursing home, or community center. We are just trying to get the word out that oral health is important and that it affects your overall health to as many of our neighbors in the community as possible. I love doing the elementary school teachings the best. It's so meaningful to teach them the importance of oral hygiene. Fortunately, more me, I was able to go back to the community I grew up in. Being able to teach these kids these oral hygiene habits at such a young age really showed me the impact that my career has on our community and people's future and lives.

We also get invited to several health fairs across the city. You may see us sitting in a booth downtown or in a community across the city giving oral hygiene advice or providing resources. One of the amazing opportunities we've had over the last few years has been on a global scope. One of our faculty members for a few years has been going to Tanzania in Africa with life outreach, and last year she was able to treat 200 adults and provide lots of education to the kids in the community. She's even brought several students with her, so we're hoping that mission continues, as well.

Now I'd like to give an opportunity for Katie and Kenzy to share a little about their journey at UC Blue Ash and some of their goals for the future.

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Ms. Strotman:

The dental hygiene program hasn't only taught me skills I need to be a dental hygienist, but it's taught me a lot of life skills. I learned organizational skills, communication skills with people, and especially the importance of perseverance through a program like this one. I started to pursue my bachelor's in public health and hope to continue to get my master's and come back to UC to teach as an instructor. I want to continue with outreach programs and continue in the public health system.

Ms. Shane:

My favorite part of the program was building a relationship with my instructors, classmates, and even patients. It's so important to build trust in patient relationships, to really motivate them to keep their oral health and get it in check. Upon graduation I plan to get my bachelor's and eventually pursue my master's so someday, hopefully, I can teach future hygienists, as well.

Mr. Burroughs:

Once again, we thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our mission and our work as we prepare the next generation of oral health professionals and impact on the community. We would welcome any questions you have. We also invite you to come visit our clinic or visit one of the outreach initiatives we have. The door is open and you're welcome. [Applause]

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Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Professor Burrough, Katie, and Kenzy. It's truly inspiring work you do for the community. You work right into our mission. You educate and celebrate this set of talent in our community and provide experience, as both Katie and Kenzy said, and build them as responsible citizens in the future.

Do we have any questions for either the students or Professor Burroughs? Well, thank you. We appreciate it and good luck. [Applause]

Chair Hartmann, that concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

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 Committee, and Governance and Internal Affairs Committee began at 8:56 am and concluded at 9:30 am.

Mr. Hartmann:

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

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

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 9:30 a.m. and, as noted on the first page of these minutes, roll call was taken.

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

Mr. Hartmann:

Are there any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve the February 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the March 30, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes?

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

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

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. The Minutes are approved.

**Additional Action Item**

Mr. Hartmann:

Our next recommendation is the approval of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. President Pinto, will you comment on this recommendation?

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Dr. Pinto:

We would like to discuss this in the Executive Session with the board.

Mr. Hartmann:

Very well. To do so, we'll have a motion and a second to approve postponing this recommendation.

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

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

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, the recommendation is postponed until after Executive Session.

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

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, President Pinto. The full board has been present at the committee meetings held today and has received the recommendations of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, and the Governance and Internal Affairs Committee today.

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

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

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. These items are approved.

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

Listed below are the items recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee at their respective meetings and non-committee recommendations, today, April 21, 2026:

**A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

**26.04.21.01** Approval of Amendment of Board Rule 50-1-03: Colleges and Divisions: Faculties of Colleges and Divisions and Their Powers – #3 of G&IA

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees amend Board Rule 50-1-03 for the purpose of adopting a curricular approval process developed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3345.457.

**26.04.21.02** 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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**Emeritus Status**

Wlodzimierz Bryc, PhD	Professor Emeritus College of Arts and Sciences Department of Mathematical Sciences Effective April 30, 2026
Laura Conforti, PhD	Professor Emerita College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Effective May 5, 2026
Bernadette Dietz, PhD	Professor Emerita UC Clermont College Department of Social Sciences Effective May 1, 2026
Wen-Ben Jone, PhD	Associate Professor Emeritus College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Effective May 1, 2026
Ronald Leslie, PhD	Professor Emeritus UC Clermont College Department of Social Sciences Effective May 1, 2026
Drew McAvoy, PhD	Professor – Educator Emeritus College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Dept of Chemical and Environmental Engineering Effective August 15, 2026
Nancy Oliver, JD	Professor of Practice Emerita College of Law Effective September 1, 2026
Erik Powell, MD	Associate Professor Emeritus College of Medicine Department of Family and Community Medicine Effective March 3, 2026
Claudia Skutar, PhD	Associate Professor Emerita UC Blue Ash College Department of English and Communication Effective May 9, 2026

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Laura Woollett, PhD  
Professor Emerita  
College of Medicine  
Department of Pathology and Laboratory  
Medicine Effective March 1, 2026

**Endowed Chair / Professorship Appointment**

Satish Madala, PhD  
The Mary Sue Butler Endowed Professorship  
in ILD and Rare Lung Disease Research  
College of Medicine  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Effective July 1, 2026 – August 31, 2031

**Unit Head Appointments**

Mohamed Ahmed, PhD, PE  
Unit Head  
College of Engineering and Applied Sciences  
Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering  
and Construction Management  
Effective June 1, 2025 – August 14, 2030

Junhang Dong, PhD  
Unit Head  
College of Engineering and Applied Sciences  
Department of Chemical and Environmental  
Engineering  
Effective June 1, 2025 – August 14, 2030

Milind Jog, PhD  
Unit Head  
College of Engineering and Applied Sciences  
Department of Mechanical, Materials and  
Industrial Engineering  
Effective May 1, 2025 – August 14, 2030

Katherine Sorrels, PhD  
Unit Head  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of History  
Effective January 1, 2026 – August 14, 2030

**Unit Head/Chair Reappointments**

Michael Archdeacon, MD  
Chair  
College of Medicine  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Effective September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2031



**Recommendations for Tenure or Promotion**

**From Instructor of Clinical to Assistant Professor of Clinical**

College of Medicine

Anthony Capria	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Effective 09/01/26
Joanna Lin	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Effective 09/01/26

**26.04.21.03** Approval of New Academic Courses

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve new academic courses pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3345.457 as amended by Ohio House Bill 96 – 136th General Assembly.

**26.04.21.04** Approval of Academic Unit Name Change in the College of Arts and Sciences From the Department of Geology To the Department of Geosciences

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an academic unit name change in the College of Arts and Sciences *from* the Department of Geology *to* the Department of Geosciences.

**26.04.21.05** Approval of Degree Name Change FROM Human Development and Community Engagement TO Human and Community Development – College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a degree name change in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services *from* Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Community Engagement *to* Bachelor of Science in Human and Community Development.

**26.04.21.06** Approval of Degree Name Change FROM Master of Science in Exercise and Sport Science TO Master of Science in Exercise Science - College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a degree name change in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services *from* Master of Science in Exercise Sport Science *to* Master of Science in Exercise Science.

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**26.04.21.07** Approval of New Degree – Associate of Applied Science in Data Science – UC Blue Ash and UC Clermont

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Associate of Applied Science in Data Science, a joint effort between UC Clermont and UC Blue Ash.

**26.04.21.08** Approval of New Degree – Bachelor of Music in Music Performance – College-Conservatory of Music

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Bachelor of Music in Music Performance in the College-Conservatory of Music.

**26.04.21.09** Approval of New Degree – Master of Science in Applied AI for Cybersecurity – College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Master of Science in Applied AI for Cybersecurity in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services.

**26.04.21.10** Approval of New Degree – PhD in Exercise Science – College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the PhD in Exercise Science in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services

**26.04.21.11** Approval of New Degree – Master of Science in Integrative Health – College of Medicine

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Master of Science in Integrative Health in the College of Medicine.

**26.04.21.12** Approval of New Graduate Certificate – Applied Digital Humanities – College of Arts and Sciences

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the graduate certificate in Applied Digital Humanities in the College of Arts & Sciences.

**26.04.21.13** Approval of New Graduate Certificate – Film Scoring – College-Conservatory of Music

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the graduate certificate in Film Scoring in the College-Conservatory of Music.

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**26.04.21.14** Approval of New Graduate Certificate – Community Development – College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the graduate certificate in Community Development in the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning.

**26.04.21.15** Approval of New Graduate Certificate – Applied AI in Finance – Lindner College of Business

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the graduate certificate in Applied AI in Finance in the Lindner College of Business.

**26.04.21.16** Approval of Dissolution of Academic Unit Status of Hoxworth Blood Center – College of Medicine

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the dissolution of academic unit status for the Hoxworth Blood Center in the College of Medicine.

**B. Finance and Administration Committee**

**26.04.21.17** Approval of HR – Recruitment, Selection, and Appointment of Classified Staff - #1&2 of G&IA

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt new Board Rules 30-21-07 and 30-21-08 for the purpose of aligning the recruitment, selection and appointment of classified staff to those of unclassified staff.

**26.04.21.18** Approval of Authorization to Refund Outstanding Debt

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve issuing General Receipts Obligations to refund existing outstanding General Receipts Obligations through June 30, 2028.

**26.04.21.19** Approval of General Receipts Obligations Authorization for New Debt Authority for Approved Capital Projects

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve authorization to issue General Receipts Obligations for approved capital projects, not to exceed \$500,000,000. This is a request for new debt authority, which extends to and through June 20, 2028.

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**26.04.21.20** Approval of YMCA Renovation Project

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an additional \$10,000,000 for the initial construction phase of the renovation of the YMCA building.

**26.04.21.21** Approval of STEM Academic Facility Project

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an additional \$30,500,000 to fund the initial construction phase of the new STEM Academic Facility on the current Crosley Tower site.

**26.04.21.22** Approval of Naming Recommendation: John and Carrie Hayden Community Learning Center

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the name *John and Carrie Hayden Community Learning Kitchen*.

**26.04.21.23** Approval of Naming Recommendation: Judge Nathaniel R. Jones Reading Room

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the name *Judge Nathaniel R. Jones Reading Room*.

**C. Governance and Internal Affairs Committee**

**26.04.21.24** Approval of New Board Rule 30-21-07 Employment: opt out of certain provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code on classified staff

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve to adopt new Board Rule 30-21-07 for the purpose of opting out of specified provisions of the Ohio Administrative Code and replace them with institutional rules for recruitment, selection and appointment of classified staff.

**26.04.21.25** Approval of New Board Rule 30-21-08 Employment: recruitment, selection, and appointment of classified staff

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve to adopt new Board Rule 30-21-08 for the purpose of aligning the recruitment, selection and appointment of classified staff to those of unclassified staff.

**26.04.21.26** Approval of Amendment of Board Rule 50-1-03: Colleges and divisions:  
Faculties of colleges and divisions and their powers

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees amend Board  
Rule 50-1-03 for the purpose of adopting a curricular approval process  
developed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3345.457.

**D. Non-Committee Items**

**26.04.21.27** Approval of recommendation to appoint the Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

**Synopsis:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees appoint Rudolph “Rudy”  
Buchheit as the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Provost.

**Unfinished Business and New Business**

Mr. Hartmann:

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

**Graduate Student Report**

Mr. Lampton:

Good morning, Chair Hartmann, President Pinto, board members, all our guests. As we conclude our busy Spring semester, I would like to continue in wishing farewell to Undergraduate Student Government President Joshua Copley, as well as Graduate Student Government President Neelakshi Chatterjee who is also concluding her two-year term. I have enjoyed getting to know and working with both during their terms and wish them both the best of luck moving forward.

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Similarly, I would like to continue in welcoming and congratulating Wilaini Alicea as the new Undergraduate Student Government President, and Stephen Bryant as our next Graduate Student Government President. I am excited for both and am here to help and support however I can during these next few months.

Recently during the week of April 6-April 10 the Graduate College held Graduate Student Appreciation Week which recognized the innovation, dedication, and impact of Graduate students at UC. During the week the Graduate College hosted events across campuses to offer opportunities for students to connect, decompress, and recognize their contributions. Virtual components were also available throughout the week for online students making the week accessible and accommodating for the different schedules graduate students can have at UC.

Additionally, the Mental Health Summit was held on March 11 consisting of a day filled with interactive workshops and wellness activities. Notably, those who attended had the opportunity to be trained in Brave Talk, a mental health training designed to help peers recognize and support their fellow peers. Similarly, the Graduate College and Student Affairs leadership teams have been working to continue supporting graduate student wellbeing, with a focus on meeting the needs of students who are on campus primarily in the evenings or who are predominately online learners.

Finally, I am happy to share that later this month the “What’s Your Why” video series that Dr. Tamika Odum, Chair of Faculty Senate, and I have been working on will be launching. The goal for this project is to allow us to intentionally reflect on what our “why” is for why we are here at UC, what drives us as students, faculty, and staff, and how these reasons shape our learning and growth.

Dr. Odum and I initiated this project as we are connected not only by our leadership roles, but by a shared purpose in supporting students and colleagues, learning alongside them, and empowering students as they navigate their own unique paths. From this shared foundation, we wanted to invite others to reflect on and share their “why” that grounds their work. We hope this dialogue shows that UC is meant to be more than a place of study, but a community built on connection, compassion, and shared purpose guiding us forward.

This concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

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

### **Undergraduate Student Report**

Ms. Patel:

Hello Chairman Hartmann, members of the Board of Trustees, President Pinto, Cabinet members, and guests,

As we approach the conclusion of the spring semester, students are reflecting on a period marked by growth, resilience, and continued engagement both inside and outside the classroom. Balancing academics, co-ops, research, and campus involvement, many students are now preparing for finals while also looking ahead to summer opportunities and the next stages of their academic journeys. Today, I would like to share a few updates on student experiences and overall campus sentiment.

This semester, undergraduate students have continued to distinguish themselves through national recognition and high-impact experiential learning. Students in the College of Design,

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Architecture, Art, and Planning earned first place in the National Association of Home Builders student competition, demonstrating not only technical skill but the ability to apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges. Similarly, engineering students showcased more than 250 projects at the CEAS Expo, reflecting a strong culture of innovation, collaboration, and hands-on problem solving that defines the undergraduate experience at UC.

Beyond academics, leadership development and mentorship have remained central to the undergraduate experience. Programs such as the Warren Bennis Leadership Experience and ongoing mentorship initiatives are connecting students with professionals and alumni, helping them build networks and develop the skills necessary to lead in their respective fields. Students have expressed that these experiences are especially valuable as they begin to think about life beyond graduation.

There is also a growing emphasis on preparing students for the future through interdisciplinary and forward-thinking initiatives. Efforts like the Digital Futures collaboration with the Cincinnati Fire Museum, which engages students in developing educational technology, and the continued momentum of UC's NEXT Mindset initiative reflect a broader shift toward equipping students with adaptable, real-world skills. Students increasingly recognize and appreciate these opportunities to work at the intersection of technology, creativity, and community impact.

Finally, what stands out most this semester is a strong sense of momentum among undergraduate students. Whether through competition success, project-based learning, or leadership development, students are not only participating in these opportunities but excelling within them. As the semester comes to a close, there is a shared confidence in both their preparation and their ability to carry these experiences forward into their careers and communities.

Thank you, Chair Hartmann. This concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

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

### **Faculty Senate Report**

Dr. Odum:

Thank you, Chair Hartmann, President Pinto, board members, and guests for this opportunity to give a report on behalf of the university faculty and faculty senate. I want to first welcome and congratulate Wilaini Alicea on her election to Student Body President. I'm confident she will be outstanding. I look forward to what she will accomplish in the years ahead. My official farewell was in the February report, and I know I sent my congratulations to you personally, but I just want to reiterate how amazing it is and has been to work with both of you over the last year.

Since our last meeting, Faculty Senate has remained actively engaged in advancing shared governance and strengthening communication across the university. We recently hosted the All-University Meeting, where President Pinto delivered his State of the University address. The event was well attended and provided thoughtful insights into the future direction of the university.

In collaboration with Staff Senate, we also hosted a budget town hall designed to create space for faculty and staff to ask questions about the university's budget and its operations. Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and the Office of Finance have committed to developing a comprehensive Q&A resource for the university community.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, Faculty Senate convened a special meeting to review the course approval process. We worked closely with the Office of the Provost to ensure

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that the current curricular approval process is accurately represented and aligned with state mandates. At our most recent meeting, we reviewed the final version of this process and offered minor recommendations to clarify the role of the academic committee. Pending acceptance of the proposed recommendations, Faculty Senate has voted to support the revised process. This work reflects the ongoing commitment of faculty to work collaboratively, even when the process is complex and limiting.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Graduate Student Trustee Joseph Lampton for his vision and leadership in bringing the *Power of Why* project to life. In collaboration with the Office of the Provost, Michele Ralston, and Faculty Senate, we recently completed filming the first segment of the video series, which highlights the deeper motivations that draw students, faculty, and staff to the University of Cincinnati. Through engaging conversations, participants reflect on the relationships, experiences, and values that shape their journeys at UC. Joseph, thank you for your vision and leadership. This is another strong example of what is possible when we work together to elevate and celebrate what is best about UC.

As we look ahead, Faculty Senate stands ready to contribute to solutions that support continued growth and broader impact. Together, we are shaping a future that is not only sustainable, but one that fully realizes the potential of our students, our faculty, our staff and our university.

Thank you, and that concludes my report.

Mr. Hartmann:

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

### **Staff Senate Report**

Dr. Pritchard:

Good morning, members of the board, President Pinto and guests. First, I'd like to send my gratitude to Josh. It's been a pleasure collaborating with you this year and your dedication to the university and the student body. Congratulations and welcome to Wilaini.

I am dedicating my report to celebrating staff for their achievements and contributions to the university. The culminating event of March Staff Enrichment Month was the Staff Excellence Awards. Staff Senate annually recognizes staff demonstrating outstanding service and commitment to UC's mission based on core values of Impact, Engagement, and Innovation. There were 106 individuals nominated. I will highlight the 10 awardees, a small representation of the talented Bearcat staff community:

**Brittany Allison, PhD**, Assistant Dean, Graduate Education, COM, was recognized for transforming graduate education culture through a “continuity of care” approach centering student voices. She has advanced student leadership and well-being by formalizing key organizations, expanding mental health resources, and creating impactful programs enhancing the graduate student experience.

**Robin Brinkman**, Executive Director, LCOB, a strategic and influential leader championing innovation by modernizing legacy processes, adopting new technologies, and empowering her team to experiment, driving institutional impact. She combines data-driven decision-making with broad organizational perspective, optimizing space utilization and scheduling to external reputation and global engagement.

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**Ashley Buten**, Records Manager, Public Safety, led a transition to a new records management system, managing data mapping and technical challenges by collaborating with stakeholders and implementing effective solutions. Ashley delivered comprehensive training ensuring staff were prepared to use the new system, improving operational efficiency and employee experience.

**Daniel Cummins**, Associate Dean of Students, Student Affairs, recognized for his student-centered leadership and commitment to supporting those in crisis. He founded and expanded critical initiatives such as the Bearcat Pantry and Resource Center and the Bearcat Emergency Fund, significantly increasing access to essential resources for students in need.

**Andrea Grisell**, Health and Safety Professional, CEAS, recognized for her work in quality assurance and safety. By challenging traditional methods and introducing creative solutions, she drives meaningful improvements in laboratory safety and operational effectiveness, ensuring that her environment supports the highest standards of practice.

**Tresha Lewis**, Program Manager, CEAS, recognized for managing complex academic processes for thousands of students, continually seeking ways to improve their experience. She combines expertise with a proactive, student-centered mindset, streamlining systems, leveraging technology, and driving cross-functional solutions improving clarity on processes and strengthening institutional effectiveness.

**Xiaoqun (Sherry) Liao, PhD**, Program Manager, CEAS, recognized for their role in the success of the UC–Chongqing University Joint Co-op Institute, managing complex international operations, student transitions, and cross-cultural collaboration. She ensures students are supported academically, professionally, and personally as they navigate a global educational experience.

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**Nikki Norman**, Program Coordinator, COM, a surgery clerkship coordinator having a transformative impact on medical students, going above and beyond to support their academic progress, career development, and well-being. Nikki is continuously improving the clerkship experience through student-driven initiatives, creative programming, and process enhancements elevating satisfaction and outcomes.

**Keri Thoman**, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Athletics Department, recognized for supporting complex programs and ensuring seamless operations for student athletes. Keri fosters an inclusive, collaborative environment where colleagues and athletes feel supported and valued, modeling respect, engagement, and teamwork, introducing forward-thinking initiatives that elevate performance and workplace culture.

**Jenn Wiswell**, Senior Assistant Dean, LCOB, a highly experienced and strategic leader who successfully led a complex, 40-person reorganization of student services, unifying advising, admissions, and career services into a cohesive, student-centered model. She delivered a transformative model that improved coordination, accountability, and overall student experience.

Thank you for allowing me to recognize these individuals and thank you so much for your support.

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, Dr. Pritchard, and congratulations to those award recipients. Dr. Pritchard, the group you represent is critical in the role here at UC. Thank you for your work. We will now have the new Student Body President, Weilani Alicea.

### **Student Government Report**

Ms. Alicea:

Good morning, Chairman Hartmann, board members, President Pinto, and those in the gallery. As we approach the close of the spring semester, I am honored to share updates on the accomplishments of the Undergraduate Student Government and the exciting work ahead.

First, thank you to the remarkable leadership of our outgoing Student Body President, Joshua Copley, this year has been one of tremendous progress and that is in no small part due to his dedication to the student body and commitment to the UC community. His impact will be felt long after his tenure, and I am deeply grateful to have served alongside him.

As I step into the role of Undergraduate Student Body President, I do so with excitement and a deep sense of responsibility. My name is Wilaini Alicea. I am a third-year student majoring in Criminal Justice and Political Science, with a minor in Marketing. This past year, I had the privilege of serving as the Undergraduate Student Body Vice President alongside Joshua. I am a proud Sigma Phi sister, Lady of CWEST, and Portman Center Fellow. My journey in Student Government began during my freshman year as a CECH Tribunal Senator. Over the course of my time here, I have had the honor of participating in over 100 senate meetings, committees, and focus groups dedicated to addressing the challenges our students face.

I am thrilled to step into this role alongside my friend and colleague, Zohair Siddiqui, who will serve as Student Body Vice President. Zohair is a Medical Sciences and Business Economics student whose campus involvements have been nothing short of impressive. He has demonstrated a consistent commitment to bettering the student experience, and I am truly excited to work alongside him. I am confident that together we will move this organization forward in meaningful ways.

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We ran on a platform of Game Day Experience, Activities Events & Outreach, Mental Health & Wellness and Equal Opportunity & Access with a shared vision of cultivating an experience that begins from the moment a student steps foot on campus and extends well beyond graduation. Creating a more vibrant and welcoming environment ensuring students leave this campus with lasting connections, resources and opportunities that serve them long after they walk across that stage.

As we look forward, it's important to reflect on what we've achieved. This academic year, our Senate passed 73 bills, including 20+ appropriations bills, allocating over \$23,000 directly toward enhancing the student experience. This funding supports a range of initiatives from empowering student organizations to host diverse events, to providing sponsorship for homecoming events on campus. I am grateful for every student on campus, and I look forward to continuing this work alongside all of you moving forward. As I conclude my report, I would like to give president emeritus Joshua Copley a moment.

Mr. Copley:

Thank you. There's not enough time in this meeting to list every person that's connected with us and supported us through this journey, but we will forever be grateful. It's been such a privilege being able to serve this role, and I continue to be thankful for the trust this room has placed in student leadership.

It has been such a privilege being able to serve in this role and I continue to be thankful for the trust this room has placed in student leadership. I have confidence President Alicea will continue to ensure the faculty and staff and especially students continue to be heard.

Thank you and this concludes our report.

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Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, both, and thank you for your commitment to our university.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Hartmann:

I will now call for an Executive Session. After the Executive Session the board members will return to conduct further business. Our next regular board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

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

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

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

Mr. Hartmann:

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

**Adjournment of Executive Session and Reconvening of Regular Meeting**

Mr. Hartmann:

We are now back on record. May I have a motion and a second to adjourn the Executive Session, please.

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

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

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. The Executive Session is concluded. We'll now return to the postponed recommendation of Approval of Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Provost. President Pinto, will you please comment on the recommendation?

Dr. Pinto:

Thank you, Chair Hartmann. I'll be glad to do it. Before I give my recommendation for our next Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Provost Search Team led by Dr. Greg Postel, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs. His leadership and journey along with the entire committee has seen such an exhaustive and representative process. This search was comprehensive, deliberate, and aligned with our governance practices from beginning to end.

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In terms of roles, the Provost Search Committee was charged with recommending four finalists from which the President then selects the Provost to recommend to the board. The Search Committee was broadly representative of our university community including all governance groups and was actively engaged in every stage of the process. Through the process we gathered and documented extensive feedback from the Search Committee, from leadership, and the open campus forums from faculty, staff, and students.

All the input was meaningfully and carefully considered in my recommendation to you. The process itself was consistently described by participants, including representatives of our governance groups was thorough and transparent. As President, it's my responsibility to weigh all this input along with my own direct engagement with each candidate and make a recommendation that best positions the university for long-term success.

I am thrilled to say we have found an outstanding candidate. Pending your approval, Dr. Rudolph Buchheit will begin as our next Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost on June 1. Dr. Buchheit is currently Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky where he served eight plus years. He brings with him a strong record of advancing academic programs, student success, and graduate education.

During his time at the University of Kentucky, he has led significant growth in research activity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and external partnerships. Prior to that he served in leadership roles at the Ohio State University for ten years including as Associate Dean and Department Chair. He is an internationally recognized scholar in material science and engineering with a distinguished record of research and accomplishment and publications.

Dr. Rudy Buchheit distinguished himself throughout the process. He demonstrated strong academic leadership, deep scholarly credibility, and a kind of presence and judgment required to

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lead a complex academic enterprise. He received very positive evaluations during the search including being identified early as a leading candidate, and he continued to perform strongly through each stage.

My recommendation is not based on a single data point or constituency but on the totality of the process, full range of feedback, and a clear assessment of who is best equipped to serve as Provost at this moment for the University of Cincinnati. My team and I are excited about the leadership and perspective he'll bring to UC as our next Provost, and I recommend that you approve this appointment.

Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you, President Pinto. I'm confident this was a fair and rigorous process, and the recommendation reflects the best interest of the University of Cincinnati to appoint Dr. Rudy Buchheit as the next Executive Vice President and Provost of the University of Cincinnati.

Do any other board members have comments or questions? Hearing none, may I have a motion and second to approve the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost?

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

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you. Motion passed. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Buchheit to this forum and to the University of Cincinnati.

**Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

Mr. Hartmann:

The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. There being no further business before the board, may I have a motion and a second to adjourn?

*(A motion was moved by Mrs. McGruder and seconded by Mr. Bekal)*

Mr. Hartmann:

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

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GREGROY HARTMANN  
CHAIRPERSON

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MICHELLE A. GILLIS  
SECRETARY