

Belmont University Board of Trustees Issues Meeting Summary of September 2023 Meeting

The Belmont University Board of Trustees held its quarterly Board Meeting on September 7 where updates were shared on a variety of key University initiatives.

Chair Milton Johnson called the meeting to order and recognized new trustees Andrea Waitt Carlton, Mike Cuffe, Winston Justice, Burke Nihill and Emily Reynolds, as well as new Alumni Regents Pete Geoly and Keidron Turner.



The meeting began with a feature on Athletics—including comments from Men’s Basketball Coach Casey Alexander, Women’s Basketball Coach Bart Brooks and Baseball coach Dave Jarvis. The three coaches introduced players from their teams—Isiah Walker, Kendall Cheeseman and Sam Kirkpatrick—who shared about recent team trips abroad to Spain, Italy and Nicaragua, respectively. All three players highlighted the incredible impact of their trips—from strengthening bonds with their teammates to connecting with people from other cultures.

Athletics Director Scott Corley went on to share an update on the Athletics Department, expressing his gratitude for Belmont coaches and student athletes. He highlighted the University’s first year in the Missouri Valley Conference, which included winning the conference academic award for 20 out of the past 22 years, and recapped student athlete participation in community service, mission trips and the athlete mentorship program.

Dean of the Jack C. Massey College of Business Dr. Sarah Gardial shared an update on the College. In her remarks, Gardial discussed Massey’s alignment with Belmont’s Aspirational Aim, its vision statement and the many ways she and her team are committed to living out the University’s mission. Dean Gardial encouraged trustees to consider students for internships and employment, partner with Belmont for their custom executive education needs and lend their expertise as guest speakers in classes.

Sarah Cates, Vice President for Imagination, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, spoke briefly about the upcoming Hope Summit (October 2-3). She noted that event’s full schedule and announced that the Rick Byrd Character Award would be presented to Al Andrews of Porter’s Call. Chair Johnson encouraged all present to attend Hope Summit and shared his support of this important initiative.

Next, President Jones began his University Report by reflected on the successful grand opening of the new Jack C. Massey Center, which is already used extensively by students, faculty and the community. Jones went on to recognize new key leaders at Belmont including Vice President for Hope, Unity and Belonging Dr. D’Angelo Taylor; Vice Provost Erich Baker; Architect in Residence David Minnigan; Interim Dean of the Inman College of Nursing Dr. Julie Honey; Dean of the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business Brittany Schaffer; and Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Dr. Sherell Pinto—and spoke of the good work they are already doing.

Chair Johnson offered a brief report on the recent Executive Committee before offering a brief break where spouses in attendance went to their session. Upon reconvening, trustees approved the previous meeting's minutes and affirmed new faculty members.

Greg Jones gave his President's Report report, which included a financial update, and introduced the new Executive Vice President for University Advancement David Rosselli who shared a few words of introduction. Jones went on share foci for the upcoming year including the launch of the Frist College of Medicine, generating revenue through enrollment, expanded education, campaign development and a focus to deepen and articulate the University's Christ-centered identity.

Chair Johnson invited trustees to review the written reports on the tables from the Student Government Association and the Faculty Senate, thanked all for attending and for their commitment to Belmont and adjourned the meeting.

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