

# **Belmont University Board of Trustees Issues Meeting Summary of November 2023 Meeting**

The Belmont University Board of Trustees held its quarterly Board Meeting on November 9 where updates were shared on a variety of key University initiatives.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order and mentioned the recent loss of student Jillian Ludwig. He commended Belmont's response to Jillian's death and how leadership came around her family and the community to ease pain and bring hope for the future. He asked Trustee John Faison to pray, then recognized Dr. Ryan Joseph, strings coordinator and leader of Belmont's Bluegrass Ensemble, which performed several songs.



Dean of the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business Brittany Schaffer reported on the history and current activities of the college. She shared strategic plans and the College's vision statement. President Greg Jones followed with his University report, beginning with an acknowledgement of Trustee Faison's powerful prayer at the previous day's campus prayer meeting. He read an email he received from another parent who shared appreciation for how attentive and caring Student Formation staff was to all students and shared acknowledgement for the incredible efforts displayed by the entire Belmont community in light of this tragedy.

Dr. Jones went on to give an update on finances, enrollment, housing, construction and other university activities including the Thomas F. Frist, Jr College of Medicine's accreditation, student recruitment, admissions and fundraising. He spoke about the importance of gathering for all kinds of reasons, noting in particular the recent prayer meeting for Jillian, the watch party for the Women's Basketball tournament game and the Hope Summit Day to Dream. He also described the recent launch of The Hope People podcast, with biweekly episodes being released every other week.

He recognized Trustee Larry Thraikill, who is retiring from the Board at the end of this year, and lauded his committed service as a Trustee and Board Chair for the better part of four decades. He described his role in the startup of the College of Law, his constant encouraging presence at basketball games and the essential role he has played in Belmont's meteoric growth. He went on to describe a bowl that was commissioned as a thank-you gift for Larry's service. The bowl, and towel that go with it, signify the example of the servanthood of Christ in washing the disciples' feet.

Following Dr. Jones' report, Chairman Johnson called for a break. Guests departed and the spouses left for their session.

Mr. Johnson reconvened the meeting and brought forth a recommendation from the Nominating and Evaluation Committee to elect Larry Thraikill as Trustee Emeritus, effective immediately on

Larry's retirement from the Board. With no second needed, the Board enthusiastically and unanimously approved the recommendation.

Chairman Johnson then reported on the recent meeting of the Executive Committee, noting that it had been a productive meeting where they discussed routine business, heard a report from President Jones and received updates on the Frist College of Medicine and the Belmont Innovation Labs from Provost David Gregory and Innovation Labs Executive Director Josh Yates.

Next, Chairman Johnson called on President Jones for a President's report where he spoke about the attention paid to Belmont's Campus Security, highlighted ongoing improvements and detailed planned activities. He noted that we can be very proud of Belmont security as they focus on building relationships with students and connecting with everyone across campus.

President Jones reminded attendees of the January 2023 Board Retreat where the framework of Belmont 4.0 was introduced, reviewed the concept and noted that since then, university leaders have been intentional about thinking in terms of making the greatest impact.

Trustee Harry Allen recognized the resignation of Agenia Clark, who was recently named President of Fisk University in October and left Belmont's board for that reason.

Chairman Johnson ended by noting it had been a difficult but productive day, and it was healing to hear about the positive things going on at Belmont. He thanked Dr. Jones, his team and all Board members for the hard work, involvement and impact on the university and adjourned the meeting.

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