

**Miami University
Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Oxford Campus
Marcum Conference Center Room 180's
Friday, June 26, 2026**

The Secretary to the Board of Trustees confirms that as specified in the Regulations of the Board of Trustees of Miami University, in compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, due notice was given prior to holding this meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with Chair Mary Schell presiding. Roll was called with all Trustees present, constituting a quorum. In addition to the Trustees, attending for all or part of the meeting were President Crawford, and President's Executive Cabinet members; interim Provost Chris Makaroff; Senior Vice Presidents Jayne Brownell and David Creamer; Vice Presidents Rachel Beech, Ande Durojaiye, Sue McDowell, Jessica Palatka, Jessica Rivinius, David Seidl, Amy Shoemaker, and Randi Thomas; interim Vice President Jill Gaby; Foundation Board President Brent Shock; Director of Executive Communications Ashlea Jones; Associate Provost Padma Patil; Associate Vice President Melissa Thomasson; Athletic Director David Sayler; and Ted Pickerill, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees; along with many others in attendance to assist or observe.

Roll call of Trustees:

Present:	Arushi Agrawal (Student Trustee)	Zachary Haines
	Steve Anderson	Beth McNellie
	Ryan Burgess	Rick McVey (National Trustee)
	Bill Darling	Dinesh Paliwal (National Trustee)
	Dave Dafoe (National Trustee)	Lisa Peterson
	Bill Ebbing	Madison Repass (Student Trustee)
	Deborah Feldman	Mary Schell

Absent: None

Public Study Session

Chair's Comments

Chair Mary Schell relayed the following information:

Good morning,

Thank you for attending today's meeting. We have a full agenda and will do our best to stay on time.

As we begin, we have one new leader to welcome, Scott Barrett, Scott will be our next Vice President for Advancement, as of July 1. Also, as of July 1, but not here today, Trent

Gould from Southern Mississippi University, will become our next Provost, which will allow Chris and Patricia Makaroff to finally begin their retirement.

Also retiring is Vice President for Research and Innovation, Sue McDowell, and returning to faculty is Dean of the Graduate School Mike Crowder. Sue and Mike, we thank you for all you have done for Miami, and we wish you well. We will talk more about Chris, Sue and Mike, later in the meeting.

As Sue and Mike begin their next chapters, we want to thank Rick Page who will be the interim Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Jason Abbitt who will be our interim Dean of the Graduate School. Also stepping up to lead is Melissa Thomasson who will serve as the interim Vice President and Dean of the Regional Campuses. And continuing his service to Miami is Brent Shock who will help track and facilitate major university initiatives and THRIVE projects.

Although it has only been a month since our last meeting, in that time Miami athletics brought home the Reece and Jacoby trophies for the best all-around men's, and women's athletics programs in the MAC Conference. I'm sure we will hear more about this later in the day from David Sayler.

When we met last, it was Commencement time and so many families commented on how beautiful the campus looked. So, we were so pleased when Greg and Renate honored the wonderful caretakers and curators of our campus at Lewis Place, with the award of the President's Medallion, thank you to our wonderful staff.

We also learned that one of Miami's Masters in Business Analytic teams so impressed the Cleveland Guardians with their Marketing Mix Modeling project, that the Guardians arranged for them to present their work to Major League Baseball. Other companies their fellow students in this program worked with included; Nationwide, U.S. Bank, Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Guardians, and Fifth Third Bank.

We also recently read the news that Chair of the Department of Media, Journalism, and Film, Rosemary Pennington, who many of you will recall through her reports to this Board as Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, was selected to attend the prestigious Scripps Howard Leadership Academy at Syracuse University.

Well done to our grounds crew, our Masters students, and to Rosemary.

That concludes my remarks,

Love and Honor

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Annual Intercollegiate Athletics Update

Director of Athletics David Sayler, presented an overview of a historic year for Miami University Intercollegiate Athletics, emphasizing that the department achieved unprecedented competitive success while continuing to advance the university's mission of "Graduating Champions." He highlighted Miami's second consecutive sweep of the Mid-American Conference men's and women's all-sports trophies - the first such achievement in conference history - and noted numerous program milestones, including; a school-record 209 combined victories, 18 conference championships over the past two years, multiple national rankings, and record-setting performances across men's and women's basketball, field hockey, hockey, and softball. He also underscored the department's commitment to academic excellence, reporting a 95% Graduation Success Rate for the seventh consecutive year, 43 straight semesters with a departmental GPA above 3.0, and outstanding individual student-athlete accomplishments both on the field and in the classroom.

AD Sayler also described the significant impact athletics continues to have on the university beyond sports competitions. He reported record attendance across several sports, increased student engagement, extensive national media exposure generated by Miami's postseason success, and growing visibility through television, social media, and marketing initiatives. He highlighted increased licensing and royalty revenue, and efforts to protect the university's brand by removing counterfeit products from the marketplace. He concluded, by highlighting achievements by the football, basketball, and the field hockey programs. with men's basketball drawing the largest viewership ever for an NCAA tournament First Four game, and with field hockey reaching the Elite 8 in their NCAA tournament.

Miami THRIVE Update

Associate Vice President Melissa Thomasson and Special Assistant to the President Brent Shock provided an update on the progress of MiamiTHRIVE, describing the initiative's core values:

- Student-Centered Transformative Ideas
- Unwavering Commitment to Excellence
- Mission-Focused Operational Efficiency

They reviewed the initiative's progression from planning to implementation, noting the broad engagement of the university community and highlighting the establishment of the Office of Strategic Transformation, and the hiring of a Director of Strategic Planning to strengthen performance tracking across the portfolio. Helping advance the overarching pillar - Partnerships.

They then shared progress with the five strategic pillars, including:

- Lead in Innovation, Emerging Technologies, and Workforce Development
 - BS in Quantum Computing
 - Advanced Manufacturing Hub in Hamilton
- Grow Enrollment & Expand Access
 - Expanded Miami Online

- Hyperpersonalization strategy
- Develop Career-Ready Leaders & Enhance the Student Experience
 - Miami Central launched with 130 student organizations registered within first 10 days
 - Miami Integrated Learning Office will be established; Fall 2027 implementation is on track
- Elevate Miami's Reputation and Visibility
 - Engagement metrics and data tracking standards are being established
 - Increased Alumni Office staffing
- Advance Operational Excellence
 - Chief Human Resources Officer hired
 - Implemented an HR Strategic Plan

They were joined by Vice President for Human Resources Jessica Palatka who spoke to the HR Strategic Plan.

They concluded by reviewing the status of individual MiamiTHRIVE initiatives and the FY2026 financial results. The FY2027 funding request is approximately \$10.5 million, with approximately \$8 million in new funding, and \$2.5 million in carryforward. Finally, they shared that by August, enhanced tracking will be available through Achievet, with a public-facing website to provide real-time progress updates for the Miami community.

Public Business Session

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Trustee Anderson moved, Trustee Burgess seconded, and by voice vote, the minutes of the prior meeting of the Board of Trustees were unanimously approved, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Consent Calendar

Resolutions on the Consent Calendar, included:

- [Emerita and Emeriti](#)
- [Award of Tenure](#)
- [Music Degrees](#)

Trustee Peterson moved, Trustee McNellie seconded, and by voice vote the consent calendar was unanimously approved, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Reports

With Senate adjourned for the summer, no Senate or Student government reports were received at this meeting. Student Body President Charles Merrill submitted the following written report:

ASG has remained active throughout the summer, using this time to build alignment and prepare for the upcoming academic year. Cabinet and Senate leadership have prioritized staying connected, both to ensure we are aligned in our goals for next year and to regularly check in with one another. This consistent communication has supported a collaborative and unified approach across the organization.

A central focus this summer has been supporting the development of key initiatives led by President Merrill and Vice President Morrissey. These efforts are grounded in the Merrill + Morrissey pillars - Mental Health, Life Development, and Love & Honor - with an emphasis on shaping what these priorities should look like in practice and how they can best reflect student needs. Conversations have centered on identifying what students would most value within each pillar and how ASG can deliver meaningful, visible impact in these areas.

Additionally, ASG leadership has met multiple times with representatives from Flare, a student communication platform, to explore ways to strengthen communication and engagement with the broader student body. These conversations have focused on the potential of Flare to serve as an all-in-one platform for ASG, centralizing updates, events, resources, and student outreach in a more accessible and streamlined way. The goal of this exploration is to reduce fragmentation in how students receive information while creating a more cohesive and engaging experience with ASG initiatives.

Overall, the summer has been a productive period of planning, collaboration, and preparation. ASG looks forward to building on this momentum and continuing to work closely together to effectively represent and support the student body in the year ahead.

Report from the President

Before President Crawford began, Chair Schell and the Board praised and thanked President Crawford and Dr. Renate Crawford for their ten years of service to Miami University. They lauded the many Miami achievements during those years and remarked how it is so extraordinary for a University today to have steady guidance and leadership for an entire decade.

The President then opened the presentation by recognizing the passing of Stephen Snyder, honoring his decades of service to Miami University as Executive Assistant to the President, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, and two-time interim Athletic Director. He then reflected on the University's progress over the past decade, highlighting substantial investments in academic infrastructure, Miami's economic and civic impact on the City of Oxford and the State of Ohio, and comparing the University with national peers on key metrics such as student retention, graduation rates, undergraduate teaching excellence, out-of-state enrollment, and other indicators of institutional distinction.

He then focused on artificial intelligence as a transformative force shaping higher education. He explained that Miami's strategy is centered on using AI to enhance, rather than replace, human capability by preparing students, faculty, and staff to use AI ethically, responsibly, and effectively. He described initiatives to integrate AI throughout the curriculum, including AI-infused courses across all disciplines. He also highlighted examples of student innovation, collaborations with industry, and research projects supported by external funding that position Miami as an emerging leader in AI, and quantum computing.

President Crawford then outlined how AI is being incorporated into the University's operations to improve decision-making, efficiency, and campus services through technologies such as Workday, and Google's Gemini platform. He also discussed sustainability initiatives associated with the University's data center and emphasized that AI is already in the workplace and should be viewed as a tool that reshapes work rather than replacing people.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Report of the Committee Chair

Committee Chair Beth McNellie relayed the following:

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met yesterday in Marcum Conference Center. Three resolutions were considered; all are recommended for approval. They include:

A resolution to consolidate two music degrees into a single degree with multiple tracks was approved earlier today on the consent calendar. Another was a resolution to establish Miami University Polytechnic on the Hamilton Campus. The third was to create a Miami University Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in Northeast Ohio.

Thank you, that concludes my report.

Resolutions

[Creating Miami University Polytechnic on the Hamilton Campus](#)

Associate Vice President, and soon to be interim VP and Dean of the Regional Campuses Melissa Thomasson spoke in support of the resolution. Trustee Haines then moved, Trustee Anderson seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

[Establishing a Cleveland, Ohio location for the Miami University Nursing Program](#)

Interim Provost Chris Makaroff spoke in support of the resolution. Trustee Anderson then moved, Trustee McNellie seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Finance and Audit Committee

Report of the Committee Chair

Committee Chair Ryan Burgess relayed the following:

Madam Chairperson and Members of the Board of Trustees:

The Finance and Audit Committee met yesterday at the Marcum Conference Center. The Committee considered one ordinance and two resolutions during the meeting. The Committee

also received reports from vice presidents Creamer, Powell and Seidl and the university's chief audit officer.

The meeting began with consideration of the proposed budget ordinance for the upcoming fiscal year. Under the proposed ordinance, spending for the new fiscal year is expected to increase to more than \$913 million. The increased spending is to cover, among other things, a salary increase for non-represented employees and those represented employees who have agreements in place for the new year. The ordinance also authorizes additional spending to cover the recently implemented debt financing for the arena project, rising IT costs, and funding for both the current and previous strategic plan. Revenue growth from tuition and fees, Miami's state appropriation and investment income will offset most of the proposed increase in spending, except for the gap in Regional Campus spending which will be covered by carry forward funds administered by the Provost.

The proposed budget ordinance was unanimously recommended by the Committee yesterday for approval at today's meeting.

Finally, two quasi-endowment resolutions were also presented for the Committee's consideration. The first authorizes the creation of a new endowment to be administered by the president from funds provided by the Cleveland Clinic with the focus of the endowment distribution to be used to partially fund the joint quantum computing initiative with the Cleveland Clinic. The second resolution affects the Hilda Harrison quasi-endowment. This resolution is intended to clarify how the distribution from this existing quasi-endowment is to be used. This clarification was requested by the Dean of the College of Arts and Science and is consistent with the purpose of the endowment when it was initially authorized.

Both of these resolutions were unanimously endorsed by the Committee yesterday for approval at today's meeting.

Madam Chairperson, that concludes the report for the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ordinances and Resolutions

FY2027 Budget Ordinance

Senior Vice President David Creamer spoke in support of the ordinance. Trustee Anderson then moved, Trustee Feldman seconded, and the ordinance was unanimously approved by roll call vote, with nine voting in favor and none opposed.

Amended FY2027 Capital Budget Request

The FY2027-2028 capital budget biennium request was amended to shift this year's request from the Hamilton Campus and the Polytechnic to a second building for the Farmer School of Business in Oxford. President Crawford spoke to this change. Trustee Haines then moved, Trustee Burgess seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

[Quasi Endowment, Cleveland Clinic](#)
[Quasi Endowment, Hilda Harrison](#)

The two resolutions were considered in a single vote. Senior Vice President David Creamer spoke in support of the ordinances; Trustee McNellie then moved, Trustee Anderson seconded, and the resolutions were unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustee Agrawal relayed the following:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

As I was driving back to Oxford for this meeting, I found myself getting a little emotional. These past three years have been the fastest of my life, and it feels surreal that I'll be starting my senior year in just a few short months.

I know this meeting comes only a few weeks after our one in May, but I was grateful to have a reason to come back to our beautiful campus with a mind free of exams and assignments.

I actually wasn't able to attend our board meeting last June because my family and I were traveling to Scandinavia. And while waiting for our flight in the lounge at CVG Airport, I noticed a young woman and her father wearing Miami gear. I pointed to my own Miami sweatshirt and said, "Go RedHawks!"

Jessica, let me know where I can send the invoice for the international marketing. I wore that sweatshirt throughout 6 countries.

Anyway, what started as a quick greeting turned into an hour-long conversation about Miami.

She had just finished orientation and was heading home to North Carolina. She and her father asked dozens of questions about campus life, academics, traditions, and what to expect during her first year. I shared stories, gave advice, reassured her that the nerves she was feeling were completely normal, and showed her pictures of some of my favorite memories to get her excited about what was ahead.

Before we left, we exchanged contact information. I wished her luck and told her that if she ever needed anything, she should never hesitate to reach out.

A few weeks ago, I checked in to see how her first year had gone. I asked whether she had adjusted well, whether homesickness had gotten easier, and—most importantly—whether Miami had started to feel like home.

Her response made my day as I am sure it will yours.

She joined the marching band, found an incredible community, and told me that some of

the advice we talked about in that airport lounge helped make her transition easier. This fall she'll be serving as a Resident Assistant and then is studying abroad in Luxembourg.

I couldn't be happier for her.

Not for the 3 a.m. lockout calls, but certainly for the leadership and learning opportunities ahead of her.

My interactions with her represents something so important;

No billboard or brochure will ever have the same impact as a genuine conversation between people.

Students don't choose a university. We choose the place where we believe we'll belong.

I applied to Miami because my older brother showed me what this place meant to him. That student left the airport reassured that everything she was feeling was normal and that soon this place would feel like home.

And today, it does.

I don't doubt that President Crawford had a little something to do with that.

Congratulations on ten years of leadership at Miami. On behalf of the students, thank you for always being so present, so approachable, and for constantly reminding us how much you care about this university and the people who call it home.

And Provost Makaroff, thank you for everything you've done for Miami—and for the facial expressions that helped get us through some very long meetings.

I'm always happy to talk about protein structure with either of you anytime.

And while on the topic of celebration and accomplishments, I've been attending quite a few high school graduation parties recently, and whenever I meet students heading off to college, I inevitably ask where they're going.

If they're coming to Miami, I tell them how excited I am for them—and honestly, how much I envy them. Their Miami story is just beginning, while mine is slowly approaching its final chapter.

If they're still deciding where to apply, I tell them why choosing Miami was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Sometimes they tell me, "It's too close to home."

I tell them, "You'll only see your parents when you want to."

And when you wake up with a 102-degree fever or suddenly realize you need dress shoes

because you landed an interview the next morning, you'll be grateful they're only an hour away.

Others tell me Oxford is "in the middle of nowhere."

I always smile. Because I think that's exactly what makes this place so special.

College towns are increasingly rare. They create a sense of community that's difficult to replicate anywhere else. I can still drive to concerts, go shopping, and do everything else I enjoy, but every day I get to come home to a place that feels safe, welcoming, and connected.

Dr. Beech, I'd like to think at least three applications headed your way this fall can be traced back to those conversations. I'd also like to acknowledge just how much she does for this university. If there's one thing I've learned as a student trustee, it's that somehow every road eventually leads back to Dr. Beech.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with her to discuss undergraduate admissions—an area I've become increasingly passionate about.

I originally floated the idea of having a student serve on the admissions committee. Unfortunately, FERPA shut that idea down pretty quickly.

But our conversation led somewhere even more meaningful. We talked about the incredible power of language. The words we use shape how prospective students see Miami long before they ever set foot on campus. They can build excitement, answer uncertainty, and create a sense of belonging—or unintentionally discourage students before they even visit.

I've spent a considerable amount of time reading conversations online among current students, alumni, and prospective students. I've watched graduating seniors describe Oxford as the happiest place in the world. I've also read prospective students debating whether to choose Miami or the University of Cincinnati because the criminal justice program they're interested in is only offered at our regional campuses.

Listening to those conversations has helped me better understand what students value, what questions they're asking, and where we have opportunities to tell Miami's story even more effectively.

One of the most exciting examples of Miami continuing to strengthen that story is our Early Assurance Partnership with NEOMED.

As many of you know, I serve on the executive board of Miami's premedical professional fraternity, so I've had the opportunity to hear students' reactions firsthand.

One of our members, Caroline, was accepted through the inaugural applicant pool for matriculation in 2028. She told me receiving her acceptance lifted an enormous weight from her shoulders. As she learned more about NEOMED, she completely fell in love with the institution, and she asked me to share how grateful she is to both Miami and NEOMED for making this opportunity possible.

Anyone familiar with medical school admissions understands just how meaningful this partnership is.

Today's applicants routinely apply to twenty or more medical schools. Between MCAT registration, primary applications, secondary applications, situational judgment assessments, interviews, and countless other required expenses, many students spend between five and ten thousand dollars before they ever receive an acceptance. Even then, fewer than half of applicants ultimately matriculate into medical school.

Programs like this do far more than enhance Miami's reputation. They reduce uncertainty, lessen financial barriers, and allow talented students to spend less time worrying about the admissions process and more time preparing to become outstanding physicians.

I also spoke with my brother and several of his friends—all Miami alumni who are now physicians. Their reaction was unanimous. They're thrilled this opportunity now exists and, admittedly, a little jealous they didn't have it themselves.

Another member of our fraternity, Harshini, came to Miami all the way from California. When people ask why she chose Miami, one of the first things she mentions is our reputation as an exceptional place for premedical students.

Our medical school acceptance rate has consistently exceeded the national average, and partnerships like this only strengthen that reputation.

This initiative sends a powerful message that Miami is not only an outstanding liberal arts institution but also an exceptional place to prepare students for advanced professional education.

I'd also like to briefly update you on the new arena project.

I remain committed to finding ways to incorporate student perspectives throughout the planning and design process. At our last meeting, I shared ideas about engaging students from architecture, engineering, graphic design, marketing, and sports management.

When students feel ownership, they develop pride.

I truly believe we have the opportunity to create more than a new facility. We can create a living classroom where students gain meaningful experience and graduate proudly saying, "I was a part of that."

And I believe it'll inspire a few more RedHawks to make agreements with the Los Angeles Lakers.

I promise I am almost done so thanks for hanging in there with me.

As I was writing these remarks, I kept coming back to that conversation in the airport.

It captures everything I've come to love about Miami. A simple conversation became a connection. One year later, that student isn't just attending Miami. She's loving it.

She calls this place home.

We spend a lot of time talking about rankings, enrollment, strategic initiatives, and facilities. Those things matter, and they help make Miami an extraordinary institution. But they are not what people remember most. People remember the professor who encouraged questions. They remember the Resident Assistant who checked in when they were struggling. They remember the classmates who became family. They remember the alumni who answered their questions. And sometimes, they remember the stranger in an airport who spent two hours reminding them they belonged here.

That's the story we tell every single day.

Not through advertisements. Not through rankings. But through people. Because at the end of the day, Miami's greatest strength has never simply been its beautiful campus or its outstanding academics.

It's the people who make this university feel like home.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer, a safe Fourth of July, and I look forward to seeing you all again this fall.

With love and honor, I conclude this extremely long report.

Student Trustee Repass relayed the following:

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Good morning, everyone.

Summer is a very enjoyable time for me; it's the months where I get to spend the most time with my family, work on my passions, and learn how to truly relax without thinking a mile a minute.

As Ella Fitzgerald said, it's "Summertime, and the living is easy."

Or easier, at least.

This summer, with the start of my first full-time internship, it hasn't been as easy as it once was. Less time at home, earlier wake-ups, and less free time. Now, I understand that I'm speaking to a room full of adults who probably cannot recall their last summer without having to work, so I recognize that I won't be receiving much sympathy.

Nevertheless, I have still found my summer extremely enjoyable, and that is due to the incredible experience I have had as a Cleveland Clinic intern in the Miami University cohort, as well as the initiatives I have been working on throughout the past several weeks.

Working at Cleveland Clinic as part of the Miami University internship cohort has been a wonderful and exhilarating journey of understanding the healthcare system and what it looks like

to operate outpatient facilities. Every day looks different, which is exactly what I was looking for this summer. I have met incredible people who have mentored me, and the knowledge I have gained has been immeasurable. I am looking forward to the second half of the experience over the next six weeks.

I have also been balancing the work of my Miami-focused initiatives, particularly my desire to further demonstrate to prospective and incoming students the tremendous opportunities and return on investment that come with attending a higher ed institution, specifically Miami.

I have been working with Jessica Rivinius to explore ways to better communicate these opportunities to prospective students. Together, we have discussed projects that would involve students at various stages of their Miami experience, all focused on showcasing the many ways students can engage, contribute, and take advantage of the opportunities available to them at Miami.

The possibilities are truly limitless when it comes to student involvement at Miami, and I look forward to continuing this work throughout the upcoming year.

Another project that has been especially meaningful this summer has been supporting student engagement and opportunity through the Lee and Rosemary Fisher Innovation College@Elm.

Over the past several years, College@Elm has grown into an important part of Miami's entrepreneurial ecosystem through the collaboration of students, faculty, industry partners, and community organizations. Today, student organizations host meetings and competitions within the building, startups are being developed by students and alumni, and industry partners continue to provide mentorship, internships, and real-world experiences.

Over the past year, more than twelve startups have been founded or scaled within College@Elm, and students from a variety of majors have increasingly utilized the building's collaborative spaces. One example is Sigma Eta Pi, Miami's newest business fraternity, which I helped establish on campus. The entrepreneurship-focused organization primarily utilizes Elm for meetings and events and connects our students to chapters at universities including UCLA, Penn, and the University of Michigan.

Through my involvement in organizations that regularly meet in the building, I have seen firsthand how this environment encourages students to connect with one another, share resources, and find a sense of purpose and belonging through innovation and collaboration.

These experiences led me to begin working with Miami's Vice President of ASPIRE, Randi Malcolm Thomas, and the ASPIRE team to explore how College@Elm can further support the growing number of students utilizing the space. Together, we have formed a committee of staff and student stakeholders focused on identifying opportunities to strengthen student support and expand access to the unique experiences the building provides.

Looking ahead, entrepreneurship courses, accelerator programs, and student organizations will continue to utilize College@Elm as a place for innovation, experiential learning, and community building. I am excited to contribute to this next chapter and to help

ensure that students continue to benefit from the opportunities available there.

With that being said, my summer may not have been as “easy,” but it has certainly been meaningful. Whether through my internship, my work with prospective students, or my involvement with College@Elm, I have been reminded how deeply Miami invests in its students and how eager students and alumni are to give back to the university community in return.

Whether at Miami itself, or even in Cleveland while at Cleveland Clinic, I strive to provide high-quality and impactful work in order to best represent Miami and demonstrate the exceptional abilities of its students.

I am incredibly grateful to be a RedHawk and to have the opportunity to share these experiences with you today. I look forward to continuing this work and providing further updates as these initiatives continue to develop.

I conclude my summer report with love and honor.

Thank you.

Other Business

Resolutions of Appreciation

[Sue McDowell](#)

The Board spoke in approval of the resolution and in gratitude for VP McDowell’s service. Then, following a motion and second, the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

[Chris Makaroff](#)

The Board spoke in approval of the resolution and in gratitude for Provost Makaroff’s service. Trustee Schell then moved, Trustee Anderson seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

[Mike Crowder](#)

Dean Crowder was not present, but the resolution was considered to allow presentation to him at a later date. Trustee Haines moved, Trustee Darling seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Executive Session

Following a motion and second, by unanimous roll call vote, with nine voting in favor and none opposed, the Board convened to Executive Session to consult with counsel; review pending litigation; to prepare for negotiations with public employees; for matters required to be kept confidential - trade secrets; and for security matters; as provided by the Open Meetings Act, Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Return to Public Session

The Board returned to public session to add consideration of the purchase or sale of property to the Executive Session. Following a motion and second, by unanimous roll call vote, with nine voting in favor and none opposed, the Board convened to Executive Session to also consider the purchase or sale of property; as provided by the Open Meetings Act, Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Return to Public Session

Following executive session, the Board returned to public session.

Adjournment of Meeting

With no other business to come before the Board, Trustee Haines moved, Trustee Burgess seconded and by unanimous voice vote, with all voting in favor and none opposed, the Board adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Written Reports

- Miami THRIVE Report



T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Consent Calendar

RESOLUTION R2026-64

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following for the rank of Professor Emerita effective on the formal date of retirement:

Karen Brown
Nursing

Rebecca Eaton
Humanities & Creative Arts

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following for the rank of Professor Emeritus effective on the formal date of retirement:

Garry Bowyer
Education & Society
Kinesiology

Robert Dahlstrom
Marketing

Steven Elliott
Economics

Zevi Miller
Mathematics

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following for the rank of Administrator Emerita effective on the formal date of retirement:

Jacqueline Rioja Velarde
Myaamia Center

Sarah Woodruff
Discovery Center for Evaluation, Research and Professional Learning

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following for the rank of Administrator Emeritus effective on the formal date of retirement:

Kendall Hauer
Limper Geology Museum

Approved by the Board of Trustees
June 26, 2026


T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Consent Calendar

RESOLUTION R2026-65

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following tenured faculty and administrative appointment:

Hessam Sarooghi
Chair & Associate Professor
Entrepreneurship

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Academic and Student Affairs

RESOLUTION R2026-66

WHEREAS, The existing Bachelor of Music Performance and Bachelor of Music in Music Education are being consolidated into a single Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in Music Performance and Music Education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the separate degrees of Bachelor of Music Performance and Bachelor of Music in Music Education be inactivated.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Academic and Student Affairs

RESOLUTION R2026-67

WHEREAS, Miami University's regional campus programs are positioned to align the academic portfolio with workforce need and student demands as a way to serve the community and counter the pressures of reduced program interest and enrollment decline driven by long term national and state demographic trends, and;

WHEREAS, students, families, employers, and the broader higher education marketplace increasingly demand affordability, measurable return on investment, career-aligned outcomes, experiential learning opportunities, and alternative educational pathways that connect directly to workforce needs and economic opportunity, and;

WHEREAS, emerging student interest trends demonstrate rapidly growing demand for hands-on, technical, industry-driven, and workforce-oriented educational models, including significant growth in technical education pathways, and expanding employer demand for graduates prepared through experiential and industry-connected learning environments, and;

WHEREAS, the creation of "Miami University Polytechnic" in Hamilton would position the institution to capitalize on a burgeoning marketplace by emphasizing experiential learning, industry collaboration, partnership-driven education, strong career outcomes, and alignment with the workforce priorities of the State of Ohio, while creating a distinctive and innovative institutional model capable of attracting investment, supporting economic development, and strengthening Ohio's talent pipeline, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Miami University hereby endorses the creation of "Miami University Polytechnic," on the Hamilton Campus reflecting a mission centered on applied learning, workforce alignment, experiential education, industry partnership, innovation, and economic impact, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and administration are authorized to develop and implement the operational, academic, branding, and strategic planning actions necessary to develop the Miami University Polytechnic model, including the pursuit of partnerships, investments, workforce initiatives, and programmatic innovations aligned with the educational and economic needs of the State of Ohio and the region.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Academic and Student Affairs

RESOLUTION R2026-68

WHEREAS, a documented critical workforce shortage in registered nursing exists in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, a Miami University Northeast Ohio Nursing Program would strengthen the nursing pipeline for Cleveland metro area healthcare partners; and

WHEREAS, a Northeast Ohio location would allow students to combine Miami's academic rigor with intensive, hands-on clinical training in a region experiencing significant nursing workforce demands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Miami University authorizes the establishment of an additional site for its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in Northeast Ohio, pending approval by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2026-06

June 26, 2026

Finance and Audit

WHEREAS, an operating budget is to be authorized annually by the Board of Trustees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED: that the Board of Trustees adopts the budget as presented at this meeting and shown below that most complies with the budget of the State of Ohio;

General Fund Expenditures	
Salaries (includes vacancy)	\$234,556,646
Staff Benefits (includes vacancy)	\$86,092,644
Scholarships, Fellowships & Fee Waivers	\$164,776,330
Less Institutional Financial Aid	(\$148,107,782)
Graduate Assistant Waivers	\$16,165,157
Utilities	\$16,702,483
Support Expense	\$42,574,596
Sub-total General Fund Expenditures	\$412,760,074
General Fund Transfers	
Debt Service (Mandatory)	\$21,485,734
General Fee & Other (Non-Mandatory)	\$69,552,155
Total General Fund	\$503,797,963
Designated Funds	\$75,044,282
Restricted Funds	\$105,133,432
Auxiliary Enterprises	
Expenditures	\$145,097,136
Debt Service (Mandatory)	\$36,884,964
Renewal and Replacement Transfers	\$31,473,460
Other Transfers	\$4,603,900
Total Auxiliaries	\$218,059,460
Miami Thrive	
Thrive - Ongoing Expenses	\$7,474,457
Thrive - One Time Expenses	\$5,679,420
Total Miami Thrive Expenditures	\$13,153,877
TOTAL	\$913,657,973

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED: that the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Services and Treasurer, with the approval of the President, may make such adjustments as are necessary in the operating budget within the limits of available funds or within the limits of additional income received for a specific purpose ("restricted funds"); and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED: that the appropriation for fiscal year 2027 authorizes a 3% increment pool to be awarded as determined by the President of the University.

June 26, 2026
Other Business

RESOLUTION R2026-69
Amendment of the 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Plan

WHEREAS, RESOLUTION 2026-26 approved the 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Plan which included a 2027-2028 capital funding request for renovations to support a transition to a Polytechnic Institute on the Hamilton Campus

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees hereby amends RESOLUTION 2026-26 and the 2027-2032 Capital Improvements Plan to shift the 2027-2028 capital funding request to the construction of an additional Farmer School of Business facility.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Finance and Audit

**Quasi-Endowment
Resolution R2026-70**

WHEREAS, Resolution R2019-28 established the Miami University Quasi-Endowment Policy; and

WHEREAS, Miami University, the Ohio Department of Medicaid, and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation entered into an intergovernmental agreement/memorandum of understanding; and

WHEREAS, The Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Services has recommended that five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) of the net proceeds of intergovernmental transfers resulting from this intergovernmental agreement should be used to establish a new Cleveland Clinic President's Fund quasi-endowment to provide discretionary funds for current and future Miami University presidents; and

WHEREAS, the Housing & Dining Improvements Endowment is a quasi-endowment established in 2016 to provide funding for facility improvements in the residence and dining halls; and

WHEREAS, the Housing & Dining Improvements Endowment has been reinvesting all earnings and has not made an annual distribution since facility improvements have been funded from the other sources; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Vice President of Finance and Business Services has determined that a draw of five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) should be made from the Housing & Dining Improvements Endowment from accumulated earnings to fund the renovation of Morris, Emerson, and Tappan residence halls; and

WHEREAS, to simplify cash flows, the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Services recommends transferring \$5,000,000.00 from the Housing & Dining Improvements Endowment to the Cleveland Clinic President's Fund, keeping these funds within the Pooled Investment Fund, and transferring \$5,000,000.00 from the Strategic Initiatives designated fund to the Residence & Dining Halls renewals and replacements fund, keeping these funds within the non-endowment pool; and

WHEREAS, the Miami University Finance and Audit Committee recommends approval of this plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the creation of the Cleveland Clinic President's Fund quasi-endowment funded with \$5,000,000.00 transferred from the Housing & Dining Improvements Endowment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the transfer of \$5,000,000.00 from the Strategic Initiatives designated fund to the Residence & Dining Halls renewals and replacements fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the annual distributions of the Cleveland Clinic President's Fund be used at the discretion of the Miami University president; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, future additions may be made to this fund from future intergovernmental transfers involving the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation as determined by the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Services.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Finance and Audit

**Quasi-Endowment
Resolution R2026-71**

WHEREAS, Resolution R2019-28 established the Miami University Quasi-Endowment Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Western Program in Miami University's College of Arts and Science carries on the legacy of engagement and activism of the former Western College for Women; and

WHEREAS, Miami University received a bequest intended for Western College for Women from Hilda J. Harrison in 1977 that was quasi-endowed; and

WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Arts and Science has recommended that the Hilda Harrison Fund be used to support the Directorship of the Western Program; and

WHEREAS, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Services of Miami University recommend approval of this plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the renaming of the Hilda Harrison Fund to Western Program Directorship Fund Supported by Hilda Harrison; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the annual distributions of the Western Program Directorship Fund Supported by Hilda Harrison be used to support the funding of the Directorship of the Western Program.

To: Chris Makaroff and David Creamer
From: Bruce Guiot *BG*
Subject: Hilda Harrison Western Center Director Fund Quasi-endowment
Date: May 28, 2026

Western College for Women was notified of a \$25,000 bequest from Hilda J. Harrison in 1975. Due to the recent closure of Western College, the Probate Court in Palm Beach, Florida awarded the bequest to Miami University as Successor to Western College for Women in 1977. This gift pre-dated the agreement between Western College Alumnae Association (WCAA) and Miami University Foundation (MUF) intended to accommodate gifts intended for Western College. There was no donor-imposed restriction on the use of the bequest. The bequest was quasi-endowed by Miami University and its value is now approximately \$560,000.

With the disbanding of the WCAA in 2024, a post-WCAA dissolution agreement with MUF established a path to use remaining bequests to WCAA to fund the Western Program Directorship. Funding this directorship is a priority for both the former board of the WCAA and the dean of the College of Arts and Science (CAS).

The Western Program works at the intersections of liberal arts and social justice to engage Miami and the surrounding community in problem solving for some of humanity's most pressing challenges. The Western Program carries on the legacy of engagement and activism of the former Western College for Women.

The request is to add a restriction to the distribution from this quasi-endowment, as determined annually by the Miami University Endowment Spending Policy, to be used to fund the Western Program Directorship.

Copy: Renee Baernstein, Joe Christman, Zach Bailey

Approved: 
Christopher Makaroff

Date: 6-9-2026

Approved: 
David Creamer

Date: June 9, 2026

Approved by the Board of Trustees
June 26, 2026

June 26, 2026
Consent Calendar



T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

RESOLUTION R2026-72

Resolution of Appreciation for
Susan McDowell, Ph.D.

WHEREAS, Susan McDowell joined Miami University in 2022, as the Vice President for Research and Innovation to lead the strategic growth of research activities and guide the management of research operations; and

WHEREAS, since her arrival research has flourished, with research expenditures now exceeding \$50,000,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, Sue received her baccalaureate degrees in biology and secondary education from Thomas More College, and her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and conducted postdoctoral training at Eli Lilly & Co; and

WHEREAS, she arrived at Miami following nearly twenty years at Ball State University as a member of the Department of Biology rising to become the Vice Provost for Research, where she more than tripled annual external funding; and

WHEREAS, at Ball State University, she created innovative programs, including the Advisory Council on Scholarship to bring together faculty and administrators from every college, to learn of obstacles to research and creative endeavors, and to develop grassroots-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, she also created the Teacher-Scholar Program to fund and celebrate collaborative partnerships between undergraduate student researchers and research mentors across the campus community; and

WHEREAS, Sue was selected as one of only eight individuals in an annual cohort to join the prestigious Association for Public and Land Grant Universities' Council on Research Leader Fellowship Program; and

WHEREAS, she has mentored 50 undergraduate and master's level students, including seven student researchers in the Louis B. Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program and 39 female student researchers; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Miami University's Vice President for Research and Innovation, Miami has seen record-breaking years for external grants received, the largest single grant in University history, the receipt of multiple federal grants for quantum science, grants from the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to achieving a record external grant year which was more than double that of the year before her arrival, Sue's tenure has also brought Miami University modernized and enhanced lab and studio safety, strengthened scholarship, and established a culture of compliance excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Miami University Board of Trustees do hereby express their sincere gratitude, and deepest appreciation for Sue McDowell's service and leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of this Board offer their best wishes for Sue's continued good health and success in all future endeavors, and extend an open invitation to Sue and Kelly to visit often in the years ahead.

Done, by the Miami University Board of Trustees, this Twenty-Fifth Day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Six at Miami University, in the City of Oxford, County of Butler, State of Ohio, during the Two Hundred and Seventeenth year of the University's Charter.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Consent Calendar

RESOLUTION R2026-73

Resolution of Appreciation for
Christopher Makaroff, Ph.D.

WHEREAS, Christopher Makaroff joined Miami in 1989, eventually rising to Miami's senior most academic role, to serve as interim Provost for the 2025 – 2026 academic year; and

WHEREAS, Chris served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for nearly a decade, before becoming Dean of the College of Arts and Science in 2015, serving in that role until 2024; and

WHEREAS, he is a nationally recognized scholar and accomplished teacher; Chris was named Miami Sigma Xi Researcher of the Year in 2004, and the Distinguished Scholar of the Graduate Faculty in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Chris' research involves multi-disciplinary approaches to understand the relationship of protein structure to biological function, and in 2009 he was awarded the Miami University Distinguished Scholar award for his significant research accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, he has mentored more than 200 undergraduates, 21 graduate students, and 12 post-doctoral researchers, and has published 80 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Twenty of his peer-reviewed manuscripts have featured one or more undergraduates as co-authors; and

WHEREAS, as Dean of the College of Arts and Science, he expertly led Miami's largest academic division through the challenges of the COVID 19 global pandemic. Through his leadership, Miami not only weathered this trial but emerged stronger, and better prepared to meet the coming challenges of the future; and

WHEREAS, Chris has spent time on more than 40 university committees – including eight years with the Fiscal Priorities and Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, he is also a servant leader beyond Miami, serving on the editorial board of Plant Signaling and Behavior from 2005-2011, as associate editor of BMC Plant Biology from 2011-2013, and as associate section editor of that publication from 2013-2016; and

WHEREAS, his service and impact are not limited to higher education, Chris volunteers for Interact for Health, a nonprofit that works with communities to advance health justice to ensure people are healthy and thriving. He has been a member of Interact for Health's Board of Directors since 2017 and served as vice-chair in 2023-24; and

WHEREAS, Chris was instrumental in Miami teaming with Interact for Health to strengthen awareness of, and gain access to, recovery housing. After issuing a report on the availability of recovery housing in the region, Interact for Health and Miami worked with the community to develop the R-Silience app, which transformed how individuals and families can search for the right recovery house; and

WHEREAS, for his many academic achievements, and far-reaching impact, Chris was named a Benjamin Harrison Award recipient, one of the most significant recognitions Miami can bestow upon a faculty member for extraordinary and sustained contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Miami University Board of Trustees do hereby express their sincere gratitude, and deepest appreciation for Chris Makaroff's service and leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of this Board offer their best wishes for Chris' continued good health and success in all future endeavors, and extend an open invitation to Chris and Patricia to visit often in the years ahead.

Done, by the Miami University Board of Trustees, this Twenty-Sixth Day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Six at Miami University, in the City of Oxford, County of Butler, State of Ohio, during the Two Hundred and Seventeenth year of the University's Charter.

Approved by the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026



T. O. Pickerill II
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

June 26, 2026
Consent Calendar

RESOLUTION R2026-74
Resolution of Appreciation for
Michael W. Crowder, Ph.D.

WHEREAS, Michael W. Crowder joined Miami in 1995, and has served as the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School since 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mike served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for seven years; and has twice served as interim vice president for Research and Innovation; and

WHEREAS, he has mentored dozens of graduate students and scores of undergraduate students, guiding them to conduct high-level research and preparing them for successful careers in academia, medicine, and industry; and

WHEREAS, Mike is a renowned expert in efforts to curb antibiotic resistance, specifically due to bacteria that produce metallo- β -lactamases (MBLs) through research involving a combination of biochemical and spectroscopic studies to probe the mechanism by which the MBLs hydrolyze antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, while at Miami University, his research has resulted in more than 110 publications in top-tier biochemistry, chemistry, and medicinal chemistry journals, nearly all co-authored with undergraduate and graduate students; and

WHEREAS, as Dean of the Graduate School, and interim Vice President for Research and Innovation, he expertly chaired and led the Return to Research Committee through the challenges of the COVID 19 global pandemic. Through his leadership, Miami not only weathered this trial but emerged stronger, and better prepared to meet the coming challenges of the future; and

WHEREAS, he also serves Miami outside the office, laboratory, and classroom on our courts, fields, ice, track and in our natatorium, serving our student-athletes as Miami's Faculty Athletic Representative for the Mid-American Conference (MAC); and

WHEREAS, he is also a servant leader beyond Miami, serving on the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) where his contributions to graduate education have had a far-reaching impact, well beyond Oxford, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, his service and impact are not limited to higher education, Mike has consistently served his local community as a three-time elected member of the Talawanda City School board, and as the co-organizer and host of the annual Miami-Talawanda Science Week; and

WHEREAS, Mike also serves the global community as a James Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits Faculty Fellow and contributes to the scientific understanding of beer and distilled spirits; and

WHEREAS, for his many academic achievements, and far-reaching impact, Mike was named a Benjamin Harrison Award recipient, one of the most significant recognitions Miami can bestow upon a faculty member for extraordinary and sustained contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Miami University Board of Trustees do hereby express their sincere gratitude, and deepest appreciation for Mike Crowder's service and leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of this Board offer their best wishes for Mike's continued good health and success in all future endeavors, and extend an open invitation to Mike and Debbie to visit often in the years ahead.

Done, by the Miami University Board of Trustees, this Twenty-Sixth Day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Six at Miami University, in the City of Oxford, County of Butler, State of Ohio, during the Two Hundred and Seventeenth year of the University's Charter.