

## **Belmont University Board of Trustees** **August 2024 Recap**

The Belmont University Board of Trustees held its quarterly Board Meeting on August 15, 2024, at the Thomas F. Frist, Jr. College of Medicine, where updates were shared on a variety of key University initiatives.

Chairman Milton Johnson opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed new Trustees Jim Darter, Ray Guzman, Jeremy Kees, Anna Thornton, and Ben Vaughn, as well as new Alumni Regent Mackenzie Gimble.

The meeting began with a presentation from student athletes Grace Linzinger and Grace Evans who shared their experiences from Sports Mission trips to Alaska, El Paso and Poland. They highlighted the transformational effect of Belmont's vibrant Christian community on student athletes.

Athletics Director Scott Corley provided an update on Belmont athletics, reviewing community engagement, academic achievements and sports successes. He emphasized Belmont's strong position to continue to compete in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Dr. Anderson Spickard, dean of the Thomas Fr. Frist, Jr. College of Medicine, reported on the college's progress including faculty recruitment, the incoming class and future plans. He highlighted upcoming events such as the First Fruits celebration and a lecture by Dr. Francis Collins.

President Greg Jones presented a university report, introducing a revised Belmont logo and discussing the state of higher education. He outlined Belmont's response to current challenges, framing it as a "Redemptive Quest" to reimagine higher education through transformed practices and transcendent leadership. Jones highlighted three key initiatives:

1. Character formation and leadership development
2. Innovation and equipping for future skills
3. Forming a connected campus for creativity

The Board approved several items of business:

- Election of three Vice Chairs: Cordia Harrington, Rusty Gaston and Winston Justice
- Approval of minutes from the April 19, 2024 meeting
- Affirmation of new faculty hires

Trustee Emily Reynolds presented the results of the Board Self-Evaluation Survey, noting strong performance across categories with opportunities for improvement in some areas.

Executive Vice President Harry Allen provided updates on university finances, introducing plans for a new dashboard to aid decision-making. Provost David Gregory gave an

enrollment overview, and Assistant Vice President Larkin Briley presented a new strategy management platform (Achieveit) to measure progress toward University goals.

President Jones concluded with a detailed report on Belmont's "redemptive quest," emphasizing character and leadership development, the SOUL framework and plans to connect the campus through creativity.

Chairman Johnson thanked all for their attendance, reminded Board members of upcoming important dates and announced the implementation of a new Board portal to streamline communications and actions.