

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Columbus, Ohio, March 12, 2026

Pursuant to paragraph (B) of bylaw 3335-01-1 of the *Bylaws of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees*, the board met upon the call of the chair, Mr. John W. Zeiger, in a special meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026, in Columbus, Ohio, at Longaberger Alumni House and virtually over Zoom.

**

**

**

FULL-BOARD PUBLIC SESSION

Board Chair John W. Zeiger called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 8:57 a.m.

Members Present: John W. Zeiger, Elizabeth P. Kessler, M. Katherine Holcombe, Jeff M.S. Kaplan, Elizabeth A. Harsh, Reginald A. Wilkinson, Suzanne R. Kiggin, Tomislav B. Mitevski, Pierre Bigby, Juan Jose Perez, Bradley R. Kastan, George A. Skestos, Kara J. Trott, Patrick J. Tiberi

Members Present via Zoom: Gary R. Heminger

Members Absent: N/A

Mr. Zeiger:

Good morning. Will the secretary please advise when a quorum is present?

Ms. Eveland:

A quorum is present.

Mr. Zeiger:

Thank you. We will now convene this special meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University. So that we may proceed without interruption, I ask all attendees to turn off the sound on cell phones and other devices and to follow rules of decorum proper to conducting the business at hand.

I'd like to begin this morning by thanking everyone who is joining us, either in person or virtually. This is an important meeting of the board. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Board of Trustees for the tremendous commitment that they've all made reordering their lives in the last week to fulfill their responsibilities in a very impressive way.

In addition, we have a special guest this morning: Chancellor Mike Duffey of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, seated in the first row. Chancellor Duffey, thank you for making this a priority in your schedule. It's important to us, and we appreciate how important it is to you.

As was shared with members of our community and the public earlier this week, the Board of Trustees has accepted Ted Carter's resignation as the president of The Ohio State University. As you might imagine, the board was surprised, deeply disappointed and really saddened to learn of that situation and distressed to consider its consequences to the university. As fiduciaries charged with protecting this institution, we take this matter very seriously and are committed to acting in the best interest of the university and the state we serve.

We respect Ted's decision to resign, and we appreciate his cooperation in supporting the orderly leadership transition that is now unfolding.

The board is grateful to Ted for the many contributions he made to Ohio State over the last two years. In collaboration with the university's faculty, staff, students and supporters, we have taken significant steps to advance the excellence of our academic, research and medical enterprises. We have redoubled our commitment to opportunity and affordability for Ohio students. And we are on a pathway that is elevating Ohio State's position in the national higher education landscape.

This momentum is a testament to the enduring strength of the Ohio State community, our faculty and to the broader leadership team we have in place. This includes, in particular, Dr. Ravi Bellamkonda.

Since joining Ohio State 14 months ago as our provost and chief academic leader, Ravi has impressed all of us with his commitment to this university and its people — and with his vision, energy and collegial spirit. He played an integral role in crafting the university's current strategic plan, and his leadership throughout the early phases of its implementation excites us about what lies ahead. Initiatives to enhance academic programs and attract additional eminent faculty — just to name two examples — are both off to a very promising start.

We are thrilled with Ravi's work to date, but few of us should be surprised by his success. Prior to joining Ohio State, he served four years as the provost of Emory University, where he focused on enhancing collaboration across academic disciplines, leveraging innovation, recruiting and retaining top faculty talent, and improving student well-being and success. Before that, he was associate vice president of research at Georgia Tech, and previously dean of the College of Engineering at Duke University.

Ravi has built a distinguished career also as a biomedical engineer, personally pioneering new treatments for brain tumors in children and adults. He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering, and the Society for Biomaterials. Ravi holds 11 U.S. patents and has been elected a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors.

In addition to all these remarkable accomplishments, Ravi and his wife, Lalita — who is a faculty member in the College of Nursing and one of its leaders there — are the proud parents of two grown children and a beloved goldendoodle by the name of CJ.

In every major decision that the Board of Trustees confronts, we focus on a singular test. That test is what is in the best interest of The Ohio State University. So, when considering who the next president of this university should be, we are fortunate to have had more than a year to discover that the answer to this all-important test is close at hand.

The right leader is already at our university, and his vast experience, his personal values and management skills, his strong record here at Ohio State, and his ability to inspire excellence in all those around him give this Board of Trustees great confidence that Dr. Ravi Bellamkonda is the right person to lead this university into the future as our president.

Thus, with great pleasure — and I know the enthusiastic support of every one of our 15 trustees — I hereby move to appoint Dr. Ravi Bellamkonda as the 18th president of The Ohio State University.

The resolution for this appointment is at the seat of each trustee. It is also available to the public and members of the press from the university's media relations team.

May I please have a second?

Dr. Wilkinson:

Second!

Mr. Zeiger:

Thank you, Dr. Wilkinson. I said "enthusiastic" and I do believe it. Thank you for the second.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTION

Resolution No. 2026-114

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the personnel actions as recorded in the personnel budget records of the university since the March 5, 2026, meeting of the board, including the following appointment:

Name:	Ravi V. Bellamkonda
Title:	President
Unit:	Board of Trustees
Term:	March 12, 2026 – June 30, 2031

Mr. Zeiger:

Before we formally vote on this matter, I will open the floor for discussion.

I would ask Vice Chair Liza Kessler to comment.

Ms. Kessler:

Thank you, Chair Zeiger.

“President Bellamkonda” has a good ring to it, doesn't it?

You have built trust and relationships across the board and all of our academic community, our students, our faculty and our staff. You are, as you've heard — just heard from our chair — you are an exceptionally accomplished academic and researcher. Across every facet of our core missions — our academics, research, medical care and athletics — you are going to continue to drive excellence in everything Ohio State does. We have incredible momentum, and we are so excited to see you continue that incredible momentum as our 18th president.

And on a small personal note, in the time that I've gotten to know you, I would say you are amongst the most sincere, kind and smart people that I have had the opportunity to work with and get to know. And on behalf of the entire board, I know we are extraordinarily proud and excited to welcome you as our 18th president.

Mr. Zeiger:

Thank you, Liza.

Jeff?

Mr. Kaplan:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I support the resolution.

You know, in situations like this, I think people always hurl superlatives. And, it might be hackneyed, but when we were interviewing for the provost position and called references, I was privileged to talk to one of them who said “he's a brilliant academic, but he really cares about people — as does his wife, Lalita. And he will care about the state of Ohio.” The person said to me — and the person was from Georgia — “as your old coach talked about paying forward, Ravi and Lalita will pay forward.” And as he also said, you win with people and you will win with these people.

So, thank you.

Mr. Zeiger:

I know that the board has unanimously supported our decision, but I'm sure that there are at least a few others who would like to make comments.

Dr. Wilkinson.

Dr. Wilkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Ravi, congratulations. I say Ravi now because we'll have to start calling you Mr. President.

Couldn't be more pleased, but I think the backdrop of you being president is what's important here. You were proof that we went out to try to find the best that we could find to be the provost of this university. We've had a great history of provosts in the office and success in the Office of Academic Affairs. But we found you, and all the discussion has always been, "well, he's going to be a president somewhere." There's no doubt about that and probably could have already been before now, but you've committed to this university and your love for this university — and we certainly appreciate that — and that's evident. Because of the unfortunate situation over the last week or so, you know, we were fortunate to have you to kind of leave no stone unturned and to allow us to keep the ball in play.

So, I really appreciate what you've done for this university, but I'm more appreciative for what I think we're going to see in the coming years with you as the 18th president of The Ohio State University.

Congratulations.

Mr. Zeiger:

Kendall, I think it'd be useful to have the student perspective, please.

Dr. Buchan:

To say that this week has been a lot is an understatement, but I think we're ending on a really high note. I've been so impressed, and I know all the students been so impressed with you since you've come here. And I want to echo what everyone else has said. I think your academics and your brilliance are impressive, but it's really how you treat people. And that's the most impressive thing. So, I think this is a really exciting change.

And I also think back on all the things that we've accomplished over the last year or so since you've been here. And you're the action in the strategic plan. And I don't expect that momentum to slow down at all.

So congratulations, very well deserved, and I'm very excited to see where the future takes you and this university.

Mr. Zeiger:

Kendall once again shows how impressive our student trustees are.

Other comments?

Hearing none, I will remind you that we have a motion on the floor that has been seconded. Will the secretary please call the roll on the motion?

The motion, having been made by Mr. Zeiger and seconded by Dr. Wilkinson, was adopted by the Board of Trustees by unanimous roll-call vote, with the following members present and voting: Mr. Zeiger, Ms. Kessler, Mr. Heminger, Ms. Holcombe, Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Harsh, Dr. Wilkinson, Mrs. Kiggin, Mr. Mitevski, Mr. Bigby, Mr. Perez, Mr. Kastan, Mr. Skestos, Ms. Trott and Mr. Tiberi

Ms. Eveland:

Motion carries.

Mr. Zeiger:

Thank you. It is my honor now to introduce the 18th president of The Ohio State University: Dr. Ravi Bellamkonda.

APPLAUSE

President Bellamkonda:

Thank you.

Mr. Zeiger:

Ravi, would you like to share a few remarks with us?

President Bellamkonda:

I would indeed. Thank you so much.

It's an honor, truly, for Lalita and me to be here. I'd like to begin by thanking the board for your faith in Ohio State and for your dedicated service. From our first conversations you alluded to 14 months ago, you've made it very clear that you believe that Ohio State, from its inception, was built to lead. And indeed, we were one of the first universities to be invited to join the AAU, the Association of American Universities, back in 1916.

Lalita and I joined, as I said, the Ohio State family about 400 days ago — a little over. And we've gotten to see and experience our motto, "Education for Citizenship," in action. Citizenship is wonderful because it alludes to both the individual and the relationship of the individual to the community that they're part of. And indeed, what a community we're a part of. In our 400 days here, we've had the pleasure to interact with our amazing faculty, our staff, our students, our student leaders, our clinical leaders, our cabinet colleagues who are wonderful, the University Senate on our shared governance process, our leaders across the institution, our deans, department chairs, and center directors. And not just our own community here, our governor and first lady have been incredible, our state legislature, our mayor and his team, the higher ed partners — it really takes a village — our higher education partners — Chancellor Duffey's here — and agencies and our business partners. And not to mention our federal and state congressional delegations. Our regional campuses are represented and are so important to us. And our unbelievable alumni who show up every day — not just on football Saturdays — to help the university.

And there is another special sauce we've experienced, which actually took us a little bit by surprise, but in a delightful way. There is an incredible civic community in central Ohio that is very vested in us doing well as a state and as a region, and we've had the joy of experiencing that.

When I reflect on this, what binds this wide cross-section of our community is their love for Ohio State and, importantly, their recognition that Ohio State, as the flagship land-grant university, plays a critical role in our state's economy, and they recognize the power of Ohio State to positively impact the citizens of this great state. When a first-gen

student graduates from Ohio and Ohio State, they are transformed. Not just they — their families, siblings and their children will be transformed. That is the promise and delight of The Ohio State University.

The whole world knows and talks of us as an athletics powerhouse, and that we are. I had the joy, five days after starting — and I know you told me not to get used to this — of winning the national championship. What an experience that was. And thanks to our amazing student-athletes and coaches, we compete at the highest level, show excellence on the field and off the field, at the Olympics and for many national championships in many sports — not just football. In tennis, for example — Lalita and I like to play a little bit of tennis — I've had the pleasure of trying to keep up with Coach Ty Tucker on the tennis court. George knows what I'm talking about. And it was quite a humbling experience, actually.

But what the world doesn't fully know is that — and what I know as the chief academic officer of this university in the last 400 days — is that we are an academic powerhouse as well. We are ranked No. 5 by *Time* Magazine in public universities. We have a top-20 engineering school. We have the finest nursing school in the country, the top public nursing school in the country. Our undergraduate business program is ranked sixth in the country, and they're reimagining business education. We have one of the finest, amazing cancer hospitals in the country in The James, something that we have to be proud of. Our College of Arts and Sciences has 13 departments that are ranked in the top 10 in public universities. We have a fantastic agricultural school, vet school, and the list goes on.

And these top-ranked departments and schools don't just mean that we do an amazing job with our education, but the research and innovation that is present across the university is really breathtaking. We're ranked No. 12 in the country — not just publics — in our research progress and expenditures. We have three national centers that our faculty lead in the space of artificial intelligence. And at a time when artificial intelligence is asking us, "what does it really mean to be human?" we have incredible strengths in the liberal arts and humanities and law to probe and answer that question and lead in defining what that future looks like.

We are an academic powerhouse, thanks to this board's support, without a doubt.

"Why does it matter?" one might ask themselves. It matters because the best scholars in the world are in our classrooms teaching our undergraduate, graduate and professional students. It matters because our entrepreneurial mindset and relentless pursuit of excellence has the power to transform the world, starting right here in Ohio.

We pursue excellence not because we want to be elitist. We pursue it because when we accept \$1 — whether it's a tuition dollar or from philanthropy, from the generosity of our supporters, a sponsored research dollar, or a dollar from a taxpayer here in Ohio — we are serious about being the best possible stewards of that dollar. And that is why we pursue excellence. We pursue excellence because we want to rid the world of cancer, to help diminish the agonizing helplessness of families facing challenges in mental health. We pursue excellence because we want to make Ohio the most dynamic economy in the country.

We often hear that Ohio State is a large place, one of the largest universities in the country — and that we are. But consider this, when excellence happens at the scale of Ohio State, we create an impact that is unmatched in its transformative power. That is the power of Ohio State. That is why Ohio State matters to the state and to the country. And so, in looking ahead, knowing our collective strengths, I promise you this: Together, we will take on hard things that are worth doing — hard things that are worth doing in athletics, in healthcare, in education. In fact, in all the things we do, we will lead and we will not be afraid to lead. And we choose to lead because the challenges we face as a society, from our economy to how we organize ourselves as a society, and to helping create abundant energy that powers the ideas that we have, these challenges and

others demand that we lead and choose to lead. That is the promise of Ohio State. And we will lead with some humility. It'll be informed by our values, and we will do it with responsibility. And yes, we will do it with some abandon and joy as well.

I have been here a little over 400 days, and I know I have much to learn. But what I do know confidently is this: We know how to win. And each of us at Ohio State, in this room and across our beautiful state, have the agency to create the Ohio State we want to inhabit. And we will choose to exercise this agency in the service of hard things worth doing for the citizens of Ohio and the world.

So, I thank you, Chairman Zeiger, for this honor — and this board and the broader community of Ohio State. Lalita and I are at once humbled and proud to be citizens of this great community. Go Bucks!

APPLAUSE

Mr. Zeiger:

We are indeed fortunate to have a leader like Ravi to assume this responsibility. The future of Ohio State is bright. And I know that all of us in this room and all of those out there — both in our auditorium and online and throughout our state — we'll do everything we can, Ravi, to support your vision, your efforts to make Ohio State the very best. We're so delighted.

President Bellamkonda:

Thank you, sir.

APPLAUSE

Mr. Zeiger:

There being no further business to come before the board, our meeting is adjourned.

At 9:21 a.m., the board adjourned to meet at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2026, in Columbus at Longaberger Alumni House.

Attest:

John W. Zeiger
Chairman

Jessica A. Eveland
Secretary