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# the Collegian

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

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#### Board of Trustees vote extends Campo's contract through 2024

### CHRISTINE JENKINSON & ALAYNA ROSS

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Breaking News Reporter, Reporter

Most people—students, faculty, residents— have heard the news of President Campo's contract extension already. Carlos Campo has been the president of Ashland University since 2015, and can now add an extra three years onto his resume.

"I want to say that I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for their confidence...We are looking forward to continuing to serve our students, we love the community, we love the student body, we feel like it's a really good fit for us, and we're grateful because we developed such tremendous relationships here, and we're looking forward to these next three years," Campo said.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jim Hess, is confident that Campo and faculty will mesh together work on issues, whether that is communication or collaboration.

"I know Dr. Campo is working diligently with faculty leadership and working hard at communication and collaboration, so I think those have always been priorities, but I think we can always do them better," Hess said. "I think Dr. Campo developed a plan over the summer with the help of faculty and Board input and is doing his best to really execute that plan."

Campo has numerous plans to benefit AU, starting with a new strategic plan, called Ashland Rising, highlighting the future and continuing to invest in everyone on campus.

"...we do need to continue to work on our infrastructure," Campo said. "There are a lot of students who are excited for our new field house, that's part of the investment we're making in our traditional undergraduate programs."

Growing the donor list helps students with scholarships and the aforementioned field house.

Campo said last year had the highest fundraising year in the history of Ashland.

Another part of Campo's focus on this strategic plan is set on expanding the adult education market, including AU's Correctional Education program. He is confident that these numbers will grow from almost 3,000 students from 11 states to a higher number in a year.

"We have the nation's largest program today," Campo said. "We know that's going to be an important part of our future."

During these unprecedented times, money can be tight and schools all over the country are seeing the effects COVID-19 has brought.

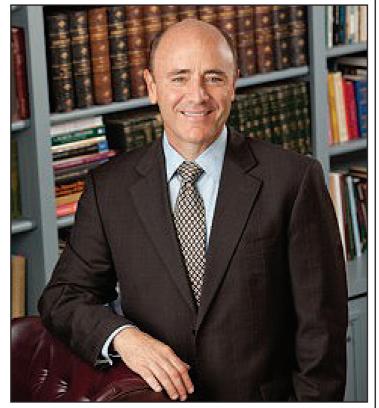
"We want to keep our education affordable, that's another thing we're going to be working on in the next three years," Campo said. "Find a way to keep our tuition among the lowest for private [universities] here in Ohio."

Campo's extended contract might have surprised some, for others maybe not so much. Campo has beat the odds, securing his presidential seat despite garnering a no confidence vote from the Faculty Senate 34-1.

Interestingly, the Board of Trustees voted confidence the day after the Faculty Senate's vote.

The Faculty Senate is a representative body of the faculty cast with dealing with primarily academic affairs issues, such as curriculum, graduation requirements, degree requirements and interfacility situations. There are separate committees within the Faculty Senate which assist with risk advice, expectations and requirements concerning faculty.

"The Faculty Senate clearly communicated that there is no confidence in the president and there has been no official change to that position," Dan McDonald, current president of the Faculty Senate, said. "Faculty arrived at this vote with immense seriousness having exhausted all other options."



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President Dr. Carlos Campo received a four year contract from the Board of Trustees.

"Though it is frustrating, and regretful that the decision to extend.

the president's contract was made devoid of any comprehensive assessment of the president, and without consulting with faculty in any way, we understand that the decision to do so, ultimately rests on the Board of Trustees," McDonald said.

When asked if the Faculty Senate "matters, since they are here every day and have a first-hand experience of seeing how students are affected by decisions made by the Board of Trustees," Jim Hess said, "Oh absolutely... their input, their views on all things related to the education of students matters significantly to the Board."

Hess continued with "we obviously take all of this into consideration, but as the Board of Trustees, we have to look at things holistically. While that's the significant component, there's a lot of variables and factors that obviously are going into the decision, and are part of the responsibility of the president and are part of

the view of the Board of Trustees while evaluating a president."

Rene Rawraway, assistant professor of Hospitality Management and 33 year faculty member at AU, disagrees.

"One has to ask themselves, how effective can the faculty be," Rawraway said. "The Faculty Senate is trying to make things better, but it is difficult. If you look at other universities that have voted no confidence, those people are no longer in those positions."

When asked "what does this contract extension mean to you in regards to your no-confidence vote from the Faculty Senate over the summer," Campo noted that there are issues that need to be resolved, but his optimism took over.

"I think it's clear that there are certain faculty members that have concerns about the issues that they've laid out," Campo said.

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# Online learning after Thanksgiving

HANNAH WITTEMAN Reporter

Ashland University will be fully online after Thanksgiving break, but will still offer housing to students who would like to finish their semester at the school.

However, there are concerns about learning, grades and stress levels affected by this major transition.

"I do not think it is going to help my grades," Bristol Hantzsche, junior social work major, said. "Honestly, I think it is going to make them worse. I do not think students retain the information they are learning as well when it is over a virtual setting."

Hantzsche added that professors are going at a faster pace, expecting students to learn more in a shorter amount of time, without giving them the resources they need to learn, such as PowerPoints. Some professors share the apprehension about changes happening

"I'm nervous about the health of the students," William Vaughan, professor of philosophy, said "I'm also nervous if Blackboard can handle this stuff. I'm recording things more than ever, and more and more faculty are doing that. The stakes are very high if there is

a Blackboard crash."

Unlike last semester, faculty have had more time to prepare for transitioning to an all online learning

environment.

Until then, it is important for students to remember that everyone is doing the best they can with what they have and to be patient with their professors.

"Don't let up. You've already shown such tremendous fortitude and just self discipline and self determination," Vaughan said "Everything that this stupid, crazy semester has thrown at you, don't jepodize all that work by letting up too soon with transition to online. Finish the race strong."

# 2020 election's record-setting voter turnout National, local candidates received higher number of votes than predicted

## AVAERIE FITZGERALD Managing Editor

After the election on Nov. 3, many Americans waited anxiously for the results of the tallied votes, which would determine who would be the next President of the United States. To many Americans' surprise, Joe Biden (D) was able to rise above current President Donald Trump (R) in the polls and claim the title of the new president-elect.

This race marks a historical moment both in terms of total ballots cast by American citizens, which totals at more than 161-million, and diversity in the White House. Kamala Harris will be welcomed as the first female vice president-elect and the first African American, South Asian American in office.

This surprise turnout, for some, came directly from the rise in young voters and the abundance of ballots that were cast this year—in

all forms of mail-in, early and day-

of voting.

According to a poll conducted by AU-Live.com, which was taken

by 18-24 year olds (56% of participants), and the other largest participating age group of 55 and older—43% of participants voted absentee, while the remaining 56% chose to vote in-person.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the announcement was made that Biden was chosen as president-elect, after gaining 290 electoral votes to Trump's 214. Over 76.3-million votes went to Biden, and over 71.4-million people voted for Trump.

In the heat of the race, many American citizens were too distracted by the national election to focus on the local issues and candidates.

In Ashland County, there were several first-time runners introduced to the community, and also many political figures choosing to run for re-election. Many of the local campaigns were smaller than normal due to requirements and mandates for the coronavirus.

Normal debates, door-to-door campaigning and meet-the-candidate nights had to be cancelled to satisfy social distancing.

### LOCAL AND STATE CANDIDATES

There were 10 candidates running unopposed on the ballot this November. Those offices included: E. Wayne Risner for County Sheriff; Angela S. McQuillen for County Treasurer; Karen DeSanto Kellogg for Probate/Juvenile Court Judge; Dale R. Thomae for Coroner; James Emmett Justice for County Commissioner; Michael E. Welch for County Commissioner; Christopher R. Tunnell for Prosecuting Attorney; Deborah A. Myers for Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas; and Edward J. Meixner for County Engineer.

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AVAERIE FITZGERALD

The microphone awaits the next president of the United States.

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