

# news

## Contract

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I’m a very optimistic person, I think that the Board’s confidence reflects the fact that we’ve been successful. On a number of metrics, we have been so successful that the Board is willing to extend my contract for three years.”

Is this optimism a realistic way of looking at his situation? With an overwhelming majority of the Faculty Senate voting “no,” this puts pressure on Campo to, as he says, “grow as a leader.”

“But that doesn’t mean the success has been unqualified,” Campo said. “There are certain folks on campus, particularly among some of the faculty leadership, that

want to see better collaboration, they want to see other issues be resolved...I look forward to working with the new leadership in the Faculty Senate and to resolve those issues.”

Faculty, like McDonald, still do not think their voices are heard.

“From my perspective, it would be easy to say that this clearly shows that the faculty vote has no merit,” Campo said. “I don’t think that’s fair.”

“From my perspective, it would be easy to say that this clearly shows that the faculty vote has no merit. I don’t think that’s fair.” - AU President, Dr. Carlos Campo

Hess mentioned that communication, collaboration, and trust take time.

However, it has been five years since Campo was elected into of-

fice. Is five years not enough time to build a working relationship? If not, how much time is enough?

“So we know these things aren’t going to be perfect right away, but we know he’s committed to improving that and we’re committed to improving that, and hopefully, we’ll see progress over time,” Hess said.

Some tension can be directed to COVID-19, as it has added stress to people and the budget. However, COVID was not an issue when he was started at AU. Further, the Faculty Senate voted twice before (2015 and 2018), each resulting in a no-confidence vote, according to Rawaway.

“We know that we’ve got some tough days ahead, but we honestly believe a year from now, we’ll have put the virus, for the most part,

behind us,” Campo said. “New programs coming online, like the new Physician Assistant program, those are things that will lead Ashland into the future as we continue to build on our great tradition here.”

Rawaway’s program, Hospitality Management, has recently been sunsetted along with 20 other programs.

“I am not angry, I am very disappointed because this Christian university isn’t doing unto others as they would like done to themselves,” Rawaway said. “Really great businesses invest in their employees and they get great customer service, good service and employees that want to be a part of the team in return and Ashland University isn’t investing in their team or in what we are here for,

which is education.”

Rawaway believes that the decision is due to the lack of communication between the President and those across campus.

Despite the no-confidence vote, Campo and the Board of Trustees are planning on moving forward with their strategic plan.

“I’m determined, and I’m hopeful that faculty are as well, to get past that because we’re not here to have conflict, we’re here to serve our students, make sure they have a great experience, that’s what I know I’m committed to, and I believe our faculty are as well,” Campo said. “We’ll get through all that too.”

## Elections

CONTINUED FROM A1

On the ballot for State Senator for Ohio’s 22nd District was Mark Romanchuk who won with over three-quarters of the overall vote, against Ryan Hunger. Romanchuk, a Republican candidate, has been a member of the Ohio House of Representatives since 2013, currently serving his fourth-term in office.

For State Representative for the 70th District, Darrell D. Kick (R) secured the win against opponent Kevin Barnet (D). Kick achieved a 70.7% vote over Barnet, and will now work on serving his third term starting in January and hopes to continue satisfying the needs of the

community.

Representative to Congress for the 7th District was chosen for re-election by the people and awarded to Bob Gibbs (R), who now has held the title since 2013.

Starting his term for the 5th District Court of Appeals on Feb. 5, 2021, William Hoffman, claimed victory over opponent Jeff Furr after receiving around 69% of the votes. Hoffman has served in the position since 1991, after over 24 years of law practice experience.

**LEVIES**

The Ashland City School District sought a 1.25-million dollar tax levy renewal that is aimed to go to permanent improvements for up to five years. This renewal was approved by the voters with 69% approval.

Mapleton Local School District

also released two renewal tax levies for the amount of four-million dollars each, which will be used for a continuous amount of time and go toward permanent improvements and current expenses. This tax renewal also passed with a 55% approval voting and 56% respectively.

The Ashland County Park District had an approved renewal for their tax levy, which will go toward operating expenses for five years. This vote was passed by 73%.

Despite a blue-leaning outcome in the national race, Ashland County residents chose to stick with re-electing familiar candidates. Results show that Ashland residents voted the way they have in years past, a red county that favors Republican candidates.



AVAERIE FITZGERALD  
Bob Gibbs (R) at an Ashbrook debate, won re-election for Rep. to Congress for the 7th District



AVAERIE FITZGERALD  
During a Republican party rally held in Mansfield, Ohio, Vice President, Mike Pence gave a speech to endorse running Republican candidates. Left: Troy Balderson, Middle: Mike Pence, Right: Gov. Mike DeWine

# Test-optional admission beginning fall 2021

EVAN LAUX  
News and Opinion Editor

To combat ongoing coronavirus obstacles, Ashland University has adopted a test-optional admittance policy for the 2021-2022 school year.

AU released a press release on Oct. 27 announcing the policy, which will eliminate the need for applicants to provide ACT, CLT or SAT standardized test scores to be considered for acceptance.

This change is intended for stu-

dents coming directly from high school or who have been out of high school fewer than three years and will only be offered for the upcoming school year.

“It had been in the works for a couple of months before my arrival,” Keith Ramsdell, vice president for Enrollment Management and Marketing, said. “I think it’s important to recognize that both our faculty and staff took a good amount of time to work on a policy that they thought would work best for our university.”

Although COVID-19 was the catalyst for many schools to adopt test-optional policies, Ramsdell said that the debate on the ability of standardized tests to gauge college readiness has been ongoing.

“There’s been a movement for many years to remove the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations), and now we’re starting to see even more of that at the undergraduate level,” Ramsdell said. “The issue there is that those test scores are not necessarily always a good predictor of college success. The

best predictors are the curriculum high schoolers took, the GPAs they received in those classes, and the caliber of the high school they came from.”

Most schools, like AU, have adopted the policies for a single academic year. Ramsdell said that the university will be looking at ongoing data and will determine later whether or not to continue the policy to any degree.

According to Ramsdell, the admissions office had students contact them and argue they would

not apply to AU until they knew that a test-optional policy would be adopted since many other schools already had.

“Quite honestly it’s just a mess right now,” Ramsdell said. “We’ve got to provide opportunities for these students to get into college and to attend next year. What we want is to enroll students at Ashland and not have them set up for failure. We want our students to succeed and thrive.”

**Read full article on AU-Live**

It’s your news. And we’re your paper.

The Collegian

For up to date campus news, also check out AU-Live.com