

From: [University Communications](#)
To: [University Communications](#)
Subject: Presidential Search Committee Update - September 24, 2025
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September 24, 2025

Dear members of the Shepherd University community:

With profound appreciation for her incredible dedication and commitment to Shepherd University, the Board of Governors received President Hendrix's decision to retire next summer, during our meeting on September 11. She had consulted privately with Board Chair, Jim Cherry, and me a little earlier, and with the assistance of counsel we presented to the Board a resolution establishing search procedures. The Board formally adopted these procedures, which will guide us as we undertake a rigorous, competitive national search for Shepherd's 17th president.

Upon the request of the Board Chair, I have agreed to serve as Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. Requests have been directed to the Faculty Senate, Classified Employees Council, and Student Government Association for nominees, from whom one each is appointed by Dr. Cherry. He and I likewise promptly moved forward to complete the committee membership.

While confidentiality as to individual applicants will be protected, there is a strong consensus for transparency and appropriate engagement in our processes. We have established a [Presidential Search web page](#) which will maintain up-to-date and readily accessible information about our progress. I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to work with the University community in this important endeavor, and I will be appreciative of your assistance.

An important first component of campus/community engagement in this process will be input and opinions regarding presidential leadership criteria and qualifications. A survey will soon be distributed to the entire University community for this purpose. Our Search Consultant, Dr. Brad Gottfried, will use this input to help him prepare materials for review and approval of the Search Committee in formally launching the search. Dr. Gottfried has had an exceptional 40-year career in higher education, including a long and successful presidency in Maryland.

We know that all of you join us in the goal of finding an outstanding candidate to begin leading Shepherd in summer 2026. We look forward to being engaged with you in this work.

Austin J. Slater, Jr