



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
W A S H I N G T O N , D C

Wednesday, August 24, 2005

Statement by Leslie Bains, chair of the American University Board of Trustees

The Executive Committee of the American University Board of Trustees today placed President Benjamin Ladner on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into personal and travel expenses. Provost Neil Kerwin will serve as acting president during this period.

We have full confidence that Dr. Kerwin and the experienced and talented cabinet and senior management in place at American University will carry out their duties in as excellent a manner as they always have.

Dr. Kerwin, an AU alumnus, has served as provost since 1998 and previously was the dean of AU's School of Public Affairs. He has been associated with the university for 30 years.

Earlier this month it was announced that the Board of Trustees authorized a review of the personal and travel expenses in one department. That review continues using outside counsel and outside auditors who are working closely with the trustees' Audit Committee.

Acting President Kerwin said, "For more than 30 years, I have been a member of the AU community, and I can assure you that the institution has never been stronger in terms of student quality, financial strength, and academic position."