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The Columbus Dispatch

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Carter out



Ohio State University President Ted Carter, seen here on Aug. 22, 2023, after being named the university's 17th president, has resigned from the position on March 7 after admitting to the board of trustees that he had an inappropriate relationship. ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Ohio State president resigns, admits to an inappropriate relationship

Sheridan Hendrix
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

After just over two years on the job, Ohio State University President Ted Carter has resigned from the university after admitting to the board of trustees that he had an inappropriate relationship.

Carter, 66, resigned over the weekend after a rare three-hour executive session for the board on March 7.

An unnamed source came to the board of trustees recently to tell them of Carter's inappropriate relationship, according to university spokesman Ben Johnson. The board then confronted Carter about it, prompting Carter to disclose it and offer to resign. The board accepted his resignation.

"The Board was surprised and disappointed to learn of this matter and takes the situation and its potential impact on the university very seriously," Ohio State Board of Trustees Chair John Zeiger said in a letter accepting Carter's resignation. "We respect your decision and appreciate your cooperation in supporting an orderly leadership transition."

The university statement said Carter admitted "he had an inappropriate relationship with someone seeking state resources to support her personal business."

The Dispatch asked the university to clarify the nature of the relationship that led to Carter's resignation. It did not share additional information and Johnson said he didn't know if the relationship was romantic. He said the university will conduct an investigation into the relationship and any concerns about the use of public resources.

Johnson said the woman who had the relationship with Carter was from outside the university.

Trustees have consistently praised Carter during his short tenure for providing steady leadership and being an ambassador for the university's land-grant mission and vision. In August, trustees approved a 4.5% merit raise, totaling \$51,233, bringing Carter's new base salary to \$1,189,733, as well as a

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Students react: 'Not too surprising'

Emma Wozniak
Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

For some Ohio State University students, the news of President Ted Carter's resignation over an "inappropriate relationship" is shocking.

For others, it's not. "Honestly, as terrible as it sounds, I'm not too surprised," said freshman Oliver Gabriele. "With all the stuff going on, it's not too surprising, and I feel like

most people will probably feel the same way."

Carter, who stepped into the presidency at the start of 2024, admitted to the university board of trustees ahead of a meeting on March 7 he'd had an inappropriate relationship with "someone seeking public resources to support her personal business," according to a university statement.

His resignation offer was accepted by the board.

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Local officials reeling after OSU leader quits

Samantha Hendrickson
Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

Local leaders are reeling from Ohio State University President Ted Carter's resignation as head of the Buckeye State's flagship university.

Carter, who began his tenure in 2024, admitted to an "inappropriate relationship" to the university's Board of Trustees, a university spokesperson told The

Dispatch on March 9. The board accepted his resignation in an emergency meeting on March 7.

OSU is also contending with the backlash over alumnus, former trustee and major donor Les Wexner. The New Albany retail billionaire has well-documented ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Widespread calls for Wexner's name to be removed

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