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On February 25, 2022, the Converse University Board of Trustees announced the selection of Boone J. Hopkins, PhD, as the University's twelfth president.

Converse's 13-member search committee was formed in June 2021 and co-chaired by Kim Varnadoe Kent '97 and Laura Chappell Bauknight '87. Comprised of trustees, alumni, students, faculty, and staff, and assisted by executive search consultants Buffkin/Baker, the committee "demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Converse University throughout the entire process and were thorough and deliberate in considering the strengths of candidates from many different perspectives," said Kent.

(*Co-chair perspectives, and/or alumni member perspectives*) "Dr. Hopkins, along with his wife Chandra, embody leaders who simultaneously and successfully embrace Converse's rich past as a women's college while celebrating our vibrant future. Together, they will continue to enrich and preserve the close community Converse has always been. They will hold true to our dedication to empowering and nurturing students, as they advance a culture of belonging and collaboration that ignites creativity, innovation, and transformation."

- Laura Chappel Bauknight '87, presidential search committee co-chair

*(staff perspective)* "Dr. Hopkins' commitment to bringing out the best in others connects strongly to the mission of Converse University to develop transformative leaders who see clearly, decide wisely, and act justly. He has demonstrated his ability to enhance and support the talents of our faculty and staff; connect the community and donors to the mission of our institution; and most importantly help students find their passion and turn it into their profession." - Randy Loggins, Deputy Director of Athletics

*(faculty perspective)* "Dr. Hopkins' experience and results as a Senior Associate Provost, Academic Dean, and Department Chair demonstrate his ability to be bold, innovative, and highly collaborative as a leader for Converse University. As one of Converse's own, he holds an unwavering commitment to Converse and the best interests of our institution and its community."

- Margaret Moore, Faculty Senate President and Associate Professor of Physical Education

*(student perspective)* "Being part of the presidential search committee was truly an eye-opening and educational experience. I am absolutely thrilled that Dr. Hopkins will serve as the 12th President of Converse. I have gotten to know him in different roles these last few years, but especially as Interim President. His love and dedication for Converse and the students are demonstrated time and time again through the way he actively listens, engages in activities, and boosts morale. Here's to a new chapter for Converse and the Hopkins family!" - Converse Student Government Association President Karen Mims '22

(*Trustee perspective*) "As a dedicated leader and advocate for excellence in higher education, Dr. Hopkins is an ardent champion for building connections. In communities like Spartanburg, an institution of higher learning like Converse has the unique potential to impact lives and enhance our society. Dr. Hopkins is an engaged citizen of Spartanburg and will play an important role in connecting Converse to the success of our city, state, and region."

- Randall Chambers, Converse Board of Trustees

(*Trustee perspective*) "A diverse student body, faculty and staff grounded in the values of equity and inclusion are the foundation for long term sustainability for Converse University. Dr. Hopkins can provide the leadership for Converse on these issues at such a critical time." - Phyllis Perrin Harris '82, Converse Board of Trustees