

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN OHIO UNIVERSITY STUDENT TRUSTEE?

The Board of Trustees is the foremost policy-making body at Ohio University. All issues that concern the general operations and academic activities of the university fall under the board's umbrella of authority. These issues range from changes in tuition to compensation practices for Ohio University employees, from approval of academic programs to property development on campus. Because its decisions impact so many people, the Board of Trustees has a very influential role at Ohio University. Inherent with the board's wide influence is responsibility. The Board of Trustees has the responsibility to preserve the positive qualities of the university with an eye on the future implications of its decisions.

The Board of Trustees is a group comprised of distinguished citizens and student leaders from all across Ohio. Trustees come from a variety of backgrounds. Prominent leaders in the fields of education, business, law, politics, and medicine have served as Ohio University trustees. The trustees represent diverse interests, yet work together to accomplish common goals for the university. Much care, research, and cooperation are necessary in order to create sound policies for the entire university community.

Nine voting trustees, two student trustees, two national trustees and one alumni representative make up the Ohio University Board of Trustees. Both national and student trustees are appointed to the board for two-year terms, the alumni representative for a one-year term, while the remaining nine voting trustees are appointed for terms of nine years. The board presently convenes five times throughout the year to discuss issues affecting the university. Student trustees supply a vital link between the Ohio University community and the board. Since most trustees reside outside southeast Ohio, student trustees can provide unique, hands-on perspective to university issues. As a result of their daily interaction with other members of the Ohio University community, student trustees can enhance other trustees' understanding of local matters concerning the university.

Like other trustees, student trustees are responsible for the well-being of the entire Ohio University community. Student trustees do bring a unique student's perspective to the board, but they are also expected to represent the university as a whole – not just a student's vantage point. The role of an Ohio University student trustee is somewhat flexible and often determined by the individual. It is a dynamic position that calls for self-motivation and desire to serve. Similar to any student office, or career for that matter, the student trustee has the choice to make the most of the opportunities associated with the position.

## HOW IS A STUDENT TRUSTEE SELECTED?

Due to staggered two-year terms arranged between the two student trustees, one student trustee position becomes vacant each year. *Ohio University students are eligible to apply for the vacant position if:*

1. *They have permanent residence in the state of Ohio;*
2. *They can fulfill the entire two-year term commitment with Ohio University student status.*

To apply, complete the application and return it along with *11 copies* to the Ohio University Student Senate office before the deadline indicated on the insert. The Student Senate office is located on the Ohio University Athens campus in Baker University Center Room 305. A committee organized by the Ohio University Student Senate will review the applications and contact candidates with completed applications for an interview. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will verify the academic and judicial status of the applicants.

After the nomination committee interviews the student trustee applicants, the committee will proceed to determine five finalists. The five finalists' applications will be sent to the Ohio University Office of the President for review prior to being forwarded to the Office of the Governor in Columbus. The governor of the state of Ohio ultimately selects the newest Ohio University student trustee from the five applicants forwarded. Note that the application should be presented in a professional manner since the governor may or may not interview candidates.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A STUDENT TRUSTEE?

The student trustee position is one of the most exciting and career-enhancing opportunities available at Ohio University. As they serve the university, student trustees are exposed to a variety of complex issues. Dealing with such issues on a regular basis allows student trustees to gain valuable "real world" experiences that may give them an advantage when competing for scholarships and employment opportunities. Prospects for career networking are abundant. Student trustees interact with prominent Ohio and national leaders from a variety of fields. What makes the student trustee position so rewarding is its unique access to the issues and prominent figures that affect complex organizations like Ohio University.

Opportunities are available for student trustees to make a stronger impact on higher education in southeast Ohio. Opportunities are also available for student trustees to gain a better understanding of the social fabric of Ohio University community. In recognition of their service, student trustees attend board social functions, including university performances, intercollegiate athletic events, and university awards ceremonies.

*"This position empowers me to make a very personally satisfying difference here at Ohio University. The many things I have learned about leadership and group process have proved invaluable to me on an academic, personal, and professional level."*

Micah Mitchell, Ohio University Student Trustee, 2005-2007

*"My already strong analytical, communication and time management skills have increased immensely due to this position. Both student trustees are treated as equals on the board; our voices are heard and always taken into consideration. Without a doubt this has been the best experience I have had here at Ohio University."*

Aslyne Rodriguez, Ohio University Student Trustee, 2004-2006

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

An optional informational meeting for all interested student trustee applicants will be held on the date and time indicated on the insert. The meeting will provide interested candidates the chance to speak with current student trustees about their role on the Ohio University Board of Trustees and to ask any questions candidates may have about the application process.

Interested applicants should feel free to contact the two current student trustees at any time during the application process should any questions arise. Please refer to the insert to find out how to contact the current student trustees.

Ohio University Board of Trustees  
Athens, Ohio

**STUDENT TRUSTEE APPLICATION**

**SECTION I.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

On separate paper, please duplicate this section and fill in the information. Be sure to include the authorization statement and your signature.

Name:  
Social Security Number:  
Email Address:  
Campus Address:  
Campus Phone Number:  
Permanent Address:  
Permanent Phone Number:  
Year in School:  
Expected Graduation Date:  
Major Area(s) of Study:  
Cumulative Grade Point Average:

I, [your name], authorize the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs to verify my academic and judiciary status.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION II.**

RESUME

Please submit a resume that includes your educational background, leadership experiences, work experiences, and any honoraries or awards you have received. Be sure to also include the contact information of the three references that are to be included in section IV.

**SECTION III.**

ESSAYS

Please answer the following questions in essay form. Limit your responses to 500 words per question.

1. What experiences and leadership qualities can you bring to the position of student trustee?
2. How do you define the role of the student trustee?

**SECTION IV.**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please submit three letters of recommendation that will speak to your experiences and ability to serve as a student trustee. Of the three recommendations, one must be a faculty member who has had you in class, and one from either an employer or administrator that can speak to the aforementioned items.

**Please address the letters to the Governor of Ohio.**

Please return 11 copies of your completed application to the Office of the Ohio University Student Senate, located in Baker University Center Room 305 by the deadline indicated on the insert. A completed application should include each section in numerical order, bound together as a packet.

Ohio University Board of Trustees  
Athens, Ohio

**STUDENT TRUSTEE  
Application and Information Packet**

