WHAT IS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

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 selected by the governor of Ohio. These individuals have a vote on Board members, as mandated by the Ohio Revised Code.

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 or 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. Unlike other trustees, however, state law mandates that a student on the board is not allowed to vote on decisions brought before them. It is, therefore, the student trustees’ duty and responsibility to their cohort to represent the needs and interests of the student population at this high level of governance. It is important that a student trustee remember that they have no legitimized, legally-binding voice on the Board of Trustees. Therefore, candidates must be willing to make themselves heard. With the added process of the election, student trustees are obliged to their fellow students, and must be ready to defend statements that they make on behalf of the student body.

HOW IS A STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTED?

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 enter the election, 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. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will verify the academic and judicial status of the applicants.

The Student Trustee Election Committee will oversee the election process. The four or five candidates who receive the highest number of votes will be sent to the office of the governor. According to state mandated law (Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3337.01B), student trustees are officially selected by the governor.

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 Vice President of Student Senate at anytime during the election process. Their contact information is listed in the insert.