

# The University of Akron Board of Trustees Statement of Mission, Values, and Expectations



Adopted June 13, 2012

## Mission

The Board of Trustees supports the fulfillment of the University's mission by ensuring:

- An effective leadership team;
- The development and implementation of a strategic plan that anticipates the changing needs of its constituencies and delivers on its promises;
- Financial integrity and sustainability;
- Transparency; and
- Effective advocacy for the University.

## Values

In order to fulfill the Board's mission, Trustees should:

Be engaged and work together as a team.

- Meet regularly.
- Be prepared; read materials.
- Understand the University and higher education.
- Trust one another and the administration.
- Maintain respect.
- Communicate openly.
- Participate meaningfully.
- Be courteous.
- Maintain cohesiveness.

Challenge assumptions and the status quo.

- Ask tough questions.
- Ask meaningful questions.
- Challenge one another and the administration respectfully.
- Be thoughtful.
- Insist on accurate information and seek to understand it.

Advocate for the University.

- Be an ambassador.
- Promote the mission and the people.
- Facilitate opportunities to leverage University assets.

Have diversity; welcome/invite multiple perspectives and views.

Carry out specific Board approved functions, such as:

- Objectively evaluate the University president's performance.
- Contribute financially to the University (except for Student Trustees).
- Organize ourselves into appropriate committees.
- Continue to press the administration for relevant materials seven days in advance of Board meetings.
- Refer media and other outside inquiries to the Board Chair.

## Expectations

The Board has certain expectations of each Trustee:

Each Trustee will engage in a yearly self-assessment of performance as a Board member. Outcomes shall be discussed with either the Chair of the Board or the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the purpose of which shall not be punitive but shall be to continuously improve Trustees' performance.

Performance of the Board in the aggregate shall be objectively measured by the Board annually.

The purpose of these evaluations shall be to improve performance and shall not be punitive.

As a minimum, each Trustee is expected to:

- Attend and maintain confidentiality of the Board's executive sessions.
- Make the University a significant object of personal philanthropy and assist in fund raising as requested (except for Student Trustees).
- Comport himself/herself in a manner fitting to the University's highest governing body.
- Conform to the requirements of Ohio's Ethics Laws, including but not limited to disclosing any potential or actual conflicts of interest or personal or business relationships with staff or faculty, or vendors.
- Inform the president's chief of staff if making a substantive request of any administrator.
- Utilize the services of the Board professionals in the Board office and/or General Counsel to obtain information of a general, confidential, privileged or legal nature.
- Support decisions made by the Board following vigorous discussion.
- Participate in the annual evaluation of the president's performance and setting of compensation.
- Attend, minimally, the following during the year:
  - 6 of 8 noticed regular Board meetings.
  - 6 of 8 noticed committee meeting days.
  - 2 of 10 commencement ceremonies.
  - The president's State of the University Address.
  - 3 voluntary special events (including athletic events or performances).
  - Any special Board meeting.
  - Annual Trustee retreat or informational sessions.