

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



Adopted October 12, 2022

Mission

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

- An effective leadership team;
- The adoption, implementation, and oversight of a strategic plan;
- Financial integrity and sustainability;
- Board functioning in accordance with fiduciary laws and obligations;
- Effective advocacy for the University; and
- A commitment to transparency.

Values

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

Be engaged and work together as a team.

- Meet regularly.
- Be prepared for meaningful discussion.
- Understand the University and higher education.
- Communicate openly and respectfully with fellow trustees, the administration, faculty, students, and alumni.
- Welcome/invite diverse perspectives and views.

Ask questions that evaluate and challenge the status quo.

- Respectfully question one another and the administration.
- Insist on timely, accurate information and seek to understand it.

Advocate for the University.

- Actively promote the mission and the University community.

Expectations

The Board has certain expectations of each Trustee. At 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 fundraising as requested (except for Student Trustees).
- Comport himself/herself in a manner fitting to the University's highest governing body in all settings, including on social media, at University events, and in all other venues.
- 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 University employees or vendors.
- Route substantive Board requests or inquiries of University personnel through the University President, Chief of Staff, or General Counsel. Committee chairs can additionally interact directly with their respective University administration liaison(s).
- Refer media and other outside inquiries to the University President and General Counsel.
- Utilize the services of the University's Office of the Board of Trustees and/or the board professionals in the Office of General Counsel to obtain information of a general, confidential, privileged or legal nature.
- Support decisions made by the Board, including those made following vigorous discussion.
- Participate in the annual evaluation of the University President's performance and setting of compensation.
- Participate in any self-review or Board performance review processes offered to Board members.
- Attend, *minimally*, the following during the year:
 - Five of six noticed regular Board meetings, with strong preference for in-person attendance.
 - Five of six noticed committee meeting days.
 - Two commencement ceremonies.
 - The University President's State of the University Address.
 - Three voluntary special events (including athletic events or performances).
 - Any noticed special Board meeting, special committee meeting, or trustees' retreat.