

Ohio Senate Advice and Consent Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Name: Michael Bridenbaker

Institution Being Appointed to: Owens Community College

1. Are you a graduate of or do any of your dependents attend the institution to which you are being appointed as trustee? No

2. What is your position on the First Amendment rights of faculty, staff, and students, and how will you balance this with promoting diversity of thought on campus? I'm an advocate of the First Amendment rights of faculty, staff and students. A balanced approach when representing the institution is appropriate, which allows the educator to promote their opinion, but also respect the values of the institution and avoid crossing over from opinion to bias. Likewise, students should be able to express their opinion but must remain sensitive and open to the opinion of others.

3. In your opinion, what are three current significant issues affecting higher education?
Cost, student debt and declining enrollments

4. Do you feel comfortable presenting new or alternative solutions to issues presented to the Board of Trustees ("Board") by the president or other trustees of the institution to which you are being appointed? Yes

5. What are some ideas you plan to propose to reduce the overall cost of higher education?
Brainstorm on how to increase enrollment, increase federal funding

6. What thoughts do you have on faculty tenure, post-tenure review, and annual faculty performance reviews? I support faculty tenure as I view that it brings stability to faculty. I also support peer review and annual performance reviews. It's critical to have measurable goals and objectives for any role.

7. What are your thoughts on ways to increase graduation rates at the institution to which you have been appointed? Ensure students have access to course materials, identify at risk students and make sure the institution has a sound degree planning program

8. Is higher education in Ohio addressing the current and future workforce needs of our state, and how can the institution you have been appointed to better address these workforce challenges? I would want to see demographic data to better answer this question, however a specific example that does attempt to address future STEM workforce needs in Ohio was addressed when Dana and Owens collaborated on an engineering center for the institution.

9. In your view, who are you ultimately responsible to serve as a trustee of the institution you have been appointed to: the president, Board chairperson, or taxpayers of Ohio? Taxpayers of Ohio