

Ohio Senate Advice and Consent Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Name: Mitchell K. Hurst

Institution Being Appointed to: Clark State College

1. Are you a graduate of or do any of your dependents attend the institution to which you are being appointed as trustee?

I am not a graduate of Clark State College, nor do any of my dependents attend Clark State.

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?

All faculty, staff, and students should have the ability to state their opinion on any issue; however, no student should ever be fearful of being put down or left behind due to having a difference of opinion with the faculty or with fellow students. We all need to be respectful of opposing views.

3. In your opinion, what are three current significant issues affecting higher education?

Understanding the needs of employers
Easy access to classes and materials for all students
Escalation of tuition cost

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, I feel very comfortable, given my 30 plus years in management roles within business and due to my serving on various boards in leadership positions.

5. What are some ideas you plan to propose to reduce the overall cost of higher education?

We need to continue to strengthen our partnerships with businesses within our service area to develop program specific courses that will create a pathway for the student. We also need to review all cost drivers within our budgets and make prudent decisions on areas that can be reduced.

6. What thoughts do you have on faculty tenure, post-tenure review, and annual faculty performance reviews?

As with any successful business, our faculty and staff should be required to have an annual performance appraisal. Any continued performance-related issues would result in additional actions being required.

7. What are your thoughts on ways to increase graduation rates at the institution to which you have been appointed?

We first need to understand why our students are not staying through graduation, whether it be cost, time constraints, or requiring additional tools to be able to understand and retain the curriculum.

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?

Specific to Clark State, the college is working with businesses within our service area to better understand the needs of the businesses and how we can build programs and courses to better serve those businesses.

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?

My ultimate responsibility is to the taxpayers of Ohio. I also have a responsibility to the students of Clark State, who are our current and future taxpayers of Ohio, to provide courses and programs at Clark State which will provide the students with the education that they need to be successful.