

June 4-5, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting Executive Summary

Key highlights:

- The Board focused on Oberlin College's long-term transformation strategy and the governance decisions needed to support institutional sustainability and growth;
- Approved the FY2027 operating budget; and
- Approved tenure, promotion, and endowed professorship cases.
- Faculty presentations highlighted the connection between teaching, research, and community engagement.

The June 4-6, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting centered on Oberlin College's long-term transformation strategy and the governance decisions needed to support institutional sustainability and growth. Across a series of quasi-executive sessions, trustees examined the rapidly changing higher education landscape; reviewed the College's transformation initiatives; and discussed the structural, financial, and governance considerations required to position Oberlin for future success.

The Board also reviewed critical operational updates, including admissions and enrollment trends, the budget, and institutional performance metrics. Trustees approved the FY2027 operating budget and the designation of certain funds functioning as endowment, reflecting the Board's emphasis on maintaining financial stability while investing in strategic priorities.

Friday's agenda expanded the discussion to include academic excellence, government relations, philanthropy, and public-private partnerships as essential components of the College's transformation efforts. Faculty presentations highlighted the connection between teaching, research, and community engagement, while external experts provided perspectives on government relations and opportunities to strengthen advocacy and external partnerships. The Board also explored strategies for maximizing philanthropic support to advance transformational initiatives.

The meeting concluded with formal governance actions, including approval of the Board meeting minutes of March 5–6, 2026; re-election of Molly Raphael as the Board Vice Chair; ratification of the 2026 Alumni Trustee election; election of new Board-elected Trustees; approval of committee charters and committee membership changes; and adoption of amendments to the Bylaws including clerical corrections, the addition of two non-voting faculty members to both the Capital Planning Subcommittee and the Sustainable Infrastructure Subcommittee, and an increase in the maximum number of voting trustee members on the Investment Committee from nine to twelve. The Board also approved Arts & Sciences tenure, promotion, and endowed professorship cases; acknowledged Interim VP for Finance & Administration Julianne Melvin's service to the College; and ratified the Executive Committee's appointment of VP for Finance & Administration Eric Leal and Associate VP for Finance Anthony DeCocinis as Officers of the College. Overall, the meeting emphasized strategic governance, financial stewardship, and institutional transformation as the Board's current primary priorities.