

October 8-9, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting Executive Summary

Key highlights:

- The Board continued its focus on Oberlin College's long-term transformation strategy and the governance decisions needed to support institutional sustainability and growth.
- Approved FY 2028 Student Charges.
- Approved governance actions including revising the Bylaws to allow for scheduling of the Fall (September/October) Board meeting in November and delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to update board meeting dates.
- Approved President Ambar's FY 2027 goals.

The October 8–9, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting centered on Oberlin College's transformation strategy, governance decisions, and organizational structures needed to support institutional sustainability and growth. Across a series of quasi-executive sessions, Trustees examined current transformation opportunities and discussed the structural, financial, and governance considerations required to position Oberlin for long-term success.

The Board also reviewed critical operational and financial indicators, including institutional dashboard metrics, admissions and enrollment, and a deep dive into financial factors. Trustees approved the FY 2028 Student Charges, reflecting the Board's focus on maintaining fiscal discipline while funding strategic priorities.

Friday's agenda expanded discussions to encompass state and federal government relations efforts, legal updates, and an evaluative framework for transformations. The meeting concluded with formal governance actions, including approval of the Board meeting minutes of June 4–5, 2026; ratification of the 2026 Class Trustee election; approval of Executive Committee At-Large members; approval of the Investment Policy Statement; approval of the Investment Committee and Executive Review & Compensation Subcommittee Charters; and authorization of the Audit & Risk Management Committee to approve the Audited Financial Report. The Board also approved scheduling the Fall (September/October) Board meeting in November, delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to update Board meeting dates and to approve new Trustee committee assignments, and the revised committee membership list. In Executive Session, Trustees received the annual presidential review and approved President Ambar's FY 2027 goals.

Trustee engagement extended to community and campus programs, featuring the "Crossing College" business partnership event, a tour of the new Center for Media & Integrated Art (MIA), dinner with Artists-in-Residence and faculty leaders, and a curated tour of the Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Overall, the meeting emphasized strategic framework implementation, supporting the core operations of the College and Conservatory, transformational growth, and fiscal stewardship as the Board's primary priorities.

Through shared governance, faculty members are elected to participate as members of certain Board committees. Their report is to be shared with the General Faculty on October 28, 2026, and will be appended to this executive summary after that meeting.