



Statement of Trustee Responsibilities and Code of Conduct

We, the members of the board of trustees of Ithaca College, recognize the importance of articulating standards in the way we exercise our trusteeship. By adopting this statement, we exercise our trusteeship. By adopting this statement, we acknowledge that trusteeship requires a code of behavior not usually expected of other citizens. By willingly and enthusiastically accepting the privilege of serving the public interest and this institution, we also accept the obligations and responsibilities that accompany our trusteeship.

This statement is intended to clarify our individual responsibilities, which we acknowledge to be distinct from, but complementary to, those of the board as a corporate entity. It shall serve to help individuals being considered for nomination to the board to decide whether they wish to accept election, to remind new and incumbent members of their obligations, and to encourage periodic review of ourselves and our board's performance.

Therefore, as trustees of Ithaca College, we each pledge to:

- A. participate in the appointment, support, and assessment of the president;
- B. counsel the chief executive as appropriate and offer support in his or her relationships with groups or individuals on or off campus;
- C. remain knowledgeable about the institution's mission, purposes, goals, policies, educational offerings, strengths, and needs;
- D. serve the institution as a whole rather than any special interest(s);
- E. remain knowledgeable about trends in higher education and other institutions in our community, state, region, and nation;
- F. when called upon by the board, help interpret and explain to the administration and academic community the needs, interests, and concerns of the community at large in the course of helping to set institutional purposes, priorities, and policies;
- G. help interpret and explain to state policy makers and others how the unique nature of an academic enterprise makes it distinct from other public agencies, including its essential commitment to academic freedom and its delicate internal system of shared governance. In a similar vein, we pledge to protect the institution's integrity and independence from unreasonable outside interference;
- H. assist the Institutional Advancement Committee and administration by implementing fund-raising strategies to the best of our ability through personal influence with other corporations, individuals, and foundations;

- I. make Ithaca a priority in charitable giving, and give an annual gift according to personal means, mindful of the need to support capital and annual giving programs as appropriate;
- J. prepare for and participate in all official board meetings and functions, including committee meetings and appropriate campus events;
- K. suggest agenda items periodically for board and committee meetings to ensure that significant policy-related matters are addressed;
- L. actively deliberate, discuss and debate board matters consistent with one's conscience and convictions, while supporting the majority decision on issues decided by the board;
- M. understand the institution's financial statements to help the board fulfill its fiduciary responsibility;
- N. serve in leadership positions or undertake special assignments willingly and enthusiastically when asked;
- O. maintain confidentiality of the board's deliberations and speak on behalf of the board or institution only when authorized to do so by the chair or her designee;
- P. ensure that our communication with individual students, faculty, staff, or administrators is judicious and appropriate to our roles as trustees;
- Q. assess clearly and critically any situation that may present a conflict of interest for the board or the institution; inform the board of possible conflicts in a timely fashion for disposition by the board as it may decide;
- R. establish and support board channels for the resolution of differences;
- S. suggest trustee nominees to the board who are individuals of achievement and distinction and who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the progress of the institution;
- T. encourage periodic review of the board's performance and support peer assessment of the board's performance as an example to all members of the academic community and to acknowledge that board and presidential leadership are interdependent; and
- U. bring a sense of humor to the board's deliberations.

We, the trustees of Ithaca College, thus commit ourselves individually and collectively to the highest possible standards of conduct. We acknowledge that each of us shares a profound obligation to exercise our best possible judgment as we face the often-perplexing matters affecting the health and vitality of this institution we hold in trust for future generations. At the same time, we appreciate that trusteeship, like the presidency, is a distinctly human enterprise and a somewhat imperfect device.

We respect the judgments of others concerning our performance, because we recognize the need to see ourselves as others see us. As willing volunteers in perhaps the most noble of all forms of volunteerism in our participatory democracy, we individually pledge to help the board and Ithaca College be all they are capable of being.

By my signature below I enthusiastically and without reservation accept this Statement of Trustee Responsibilities and Code of Conduct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____