

Summary of Part I Responses, November 2006 Board of Trustees Self-Assessment Survey

Part 1: [Ten of the eleven appointed trustees filled out the survey. The columns below indicate the number and percent of the ten respondents who gave a particular answer, as well as the mean (average) for each item.]

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4	Mean
1. Board training and mentorship adequately prepare new board members for their roles and responsibilities.		2 said 2.5 (20%)	7 (70%)	1 (10%)	3.00
2. I understand the boundaries of the board's responsibilities.			5 (50%)	5 (50%)	3.50
3. The actions of the board are fiscally responsible.			5 (50%)	5 (50%)	3.50
4. The board is able to explain its fiscal decisions clearly to internal and external constituencies.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	3.15
5. The board ensures that the University acts legally.			4 (40%)	6 (60%)	3.60
6. The board participates in social and other activities that facilitate developing good working relationships among the board members.			8 (80%)	2 (20%)	3.20
7. Board committee chairs provide all committee members with adequate information on important issues.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	5 (50%)	4 (40%)	3.35
8. The board examines recommendations from the administration carefully.			7 (70%)	3 (30%)	3.30
9. I feel free to speak honestly and openly with other board members about issues that come before the board.		2 said 2.5 (20%)	3 (30%)	5 (50%)	3.40
10. New board members are given information about YSU's history, mission, and traditions.			5 (50%)	5 (50%)	3.50
11. The University's statements of mission, vision, core values, goals, and organizational priorities, taken together, clearly and broadly define the organization's mission.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
12. I feel that the board <i>understands</i> YSU's mission.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
13. I feel that the board <i>supports</i> YSU's mission.			5 (50%)	5 (50%)	3.50
14. The board regularly considers YSU's mission, vision, values, and/or goals and organizational priorities when it discusses key issues; allocates resources; and/or approves new initiatives.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
15. The board's planning and budget decisions flow from and support YSU's mission as defined in its statements of mission, vision, values, goals, and organizational priorities.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	3.15
16. Board policies and practices show that the board's focus is on the organization's mission.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
17. The board reviews the University's mission documents periodically to assess whether they need to be revised or updated.		2 said 2 (20%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	5 (50%)	2 (20%)	2.95
18. Board meetings often focus more on current problems and concerns than on planning for the future.		2 said 2 (20%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	6 (60%)	1 (10%)	2.85
19. The board considers University planning documents (e.g., the Centennial Strategic Plan, the Technology Master Plan, the Enrollment Management Plan) when it sets or approves priorities for the year ahead.			8 (80%) 3	2 (20%) 4	3.20

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4	Mean
20. The board periodically discusses long-term goals (where the University should be headed five or more years in the future).		1 (10%)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	3.10
21. The board regularly reviews the University's strategies for attaining long-term goals.		1 (10%)	8 (80%)	1 (10%)	3.00
22. Planning and budgeting are clearly and closely linked at YSU.		1 said 2 (10%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	5 (50%)	3 (30%)	3.15
23. I understand and can explain the YSU budget to others.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	8 (80%)	1 (10%)	3.05
24. The board is well informed about regional, state, and national trends that may affect YSU.		2 said 2.5 (20%)	7 (70%)	1 (10%)	3.00
25. The board discusses how regional, state, and/or national trends may present opportunities for YSU.		1 (10%)	6 (60%)	3 (30%)	3.20
26. The key issues that the board faces are clear.			9 (90%)	1 (10%)	3.10
27. The board often explores creative approaches or solutions to the challenges that YSU faces.		2 said 2 (20%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	7 (70%)		2.75
28. Before taking action, the board examines potential negative outcomes of its decisions, not just potential positive outcomes.	1 (10%)		6 (60%)	3 (30%)	3.10
29. If the board feels it doesn't have enough knowledge to act, it postpones a decision and seeks additional information.			5 (50%)	5 (50%)	3.50
30. The board sometimes delays action until issues become critical.	1 (10%)	6 said 2 (60%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	2 (20%)		2.15
31. The board's financial allocations and investment decisions show forward-looking concern for ensuring educational quality (e.g., investments in academic programs, undergraduate and graduate student research, faculty development, faculty research and scholarship, learning support services, educational technology, new or renovated teaching facilities).		1 said 2.5 (10%)	6 (60%)	3 (30%)	3.25
32. The board's planning and financial allocation demonstrate that it values and promotes a life of learning for faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility consistent with YSU's mission.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	5 (50%)	4 (40%)	3.35
33. The board has approved and disseminated statements supporting freedom of inquiry for students and faculty and honors those statements in its practices.		1 (11.1%) 1 said 2.5 (11.1%)	6 (66.7%)	1 (11.1%)	2.94 with one no-response
34. The board has approved and disseminated statements supporting freedom of inquiry for staff and honors those statements in its practices.		1 (11.1%) 1 said 2.5 (11.1%)	5 (55.6%)	2 (22.2%)	3.06 with one no-response
35. The board supports professional development for faculty.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
36. The board supports professional development for staff.			4 (57.1%)	3 (42.9%)	3.43 with three no-response
37. The board supports professional development for administrators.			7 (70%)	3 (30%)	3.30
38. The board publicly acknowledges achievements of students and faculty in acquiring, discovering, and applying knowledge.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
39. When considering important issues, the board considers the potential impact on external constituencies.		1 (10%)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	3.10

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4	Mean
40. The board (or board leadership) communicates effectively with city and community leaders.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	3.15
41. The board establishes, supports, and/or approves University-community partnerships that are fiscally responsible and consistent with the University mission.			5 (50%)	5 (50%)	3.50
42. The board seeks to identify and address the University's challenges and weaknesses.			7 (70%)	3 (30%)	3.30
43. On occasion, the board seeks information and advice from external experts on university issues and management.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
44. The board adopts goals for itself, not just for the total organization.		3 (30%)	4 (40%)	3 (30%)	3.00
45. The board sometimes discusses what it could or should do differently.		1 said 2.5 (10%)	6 (60%)	3 (30%)	3.25
46. The board discusses the effectiveness of its performance.		4 (40%)	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	2.80
47. Funds allocated for board education and development are appropriate, given the University's financial constraints.		1 (11.1%)	5 (55.6%)	3 (33.3%)	3.22 with one no-response
48. The board takes steps to learn about important issues that other colleges and universities are facing.		2 said 2 (20%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	6 (60%)	1 (10%)	2.85
49. The board periodically asks the President to articulate his vision for YSU and to outline goals and strategies for the future.			6 (60%)	4 (40%)	3.40
50. The board periodically asks the President to evaluate his success in meeting established goals.			5 (55.6%)	4 (44.4%)	3.44 with one no-response
51. I feel that the board enables the President and other chief administrative personnel to exercise effective leadership.			7 (70%)	3 (30%)	3.30
52. I feel that the board understands student, faculty, and staff concerns.		2 (20%)	6 (60%)	2 (20%)	3.00
53. The board takes steps to learn about and improve faculty and staff morale.		3 said 2 (30%) 2 said 2.5 (20%)	3 (30%)	2 (20%)	2.80
54. The board takes responsibility for addressing important issues that the University faces.		1 (10%)	4 (40%)	5 (50%)	3.40
55. The board seeks input from those persons likely to be affected by board actions.		3 said 2 (30%) 1 said 2.5 (10%)	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	2.85
56. The board supports the concept of shared governance at YSU.		1 (10%)	5 (50%)	4 (40%)	3.30