

**Q: What are the major responsibilities of the board of trustees?**

A: The Goddard College Board of Trustees serve as the ultimate fiduciaries in their oversight of institutional affairs in accordance with the board's [by-laws](#), Vermont law, the New England Commission of Higher Education, and the College's mission and vision. In serving this critical capacity, the board of trustees has a broad set of responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- Set basic institutional policy and ensure institutional effectiveness by supporting the clear distinction between the fiduciary oversight functions of the Board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policies
- Responsible for the good name of the College and its assets
- Determining and reviewing the College's mission and vision
- Appoint and support the President, and assess their performance
- Reviewing and approving major proposed changes in academic programs and other major initiatives
- Approving the annual budget, including tuition and fees, and monitoring the college's financial operations and endowment
- Making a personal philanthropic commitment to Goddard College and assisting with fundraising

**Q: What does Goddard College expect from its trustees?**

A: Individual members are expected to have a deep commitment in their words and deeds to the College's values as articulated in its mission and vision. Trustees help to set the strategic direction of the College, with an understanding that governance is distinguished from management, and Trustees must think strategically and long term and consider the best interest of the College at all times. Trustees are expected to deliberate as individuals and govern as one.

**Q: Are Goddard College trustees compensated for their service?**

A: No. Trustees accept their role as a form of volunteer service to the College. They do not receive a salary, nor are they reimbursed for travel expenses related to college business. The only exception to this is for the student, faculty, and staff trustees, the College pays for travel to the Vermont campus per its Travel policy. Meals are provided to all board members during full board meetings.

**Q: Who are the faculty/staff/student constituent trustees? How are they chosen?**

A: According to the bylaws, the board includes one faculty member, one member of the student body, and one staff member. Faculty and staff trustees serve a term of up to three years; student trustees may serve up to two years.

These constituent trustees are elected through a process, in which nominations are solicited and voting information is distributed. The voting process and tallying are to be conducted in an inclusive, open, and transparent manner.

**Q: What are the expectations of the faculty/staff/student constituent trustees?**

A. The role of the constituent trustee is not to represent the voice of the constituent body. The constituent trustee's role is as any other individual trustee, to act to preserve, support, and sustain the mission of the College without regard to individual or particular group interests. Where there is a real or perceived conflict of interest, the constituent trustee will recuse and abstain from discussion and vote as any trustee shall.

**Q: How often does the board meet?**

A: The board meets as a group at least three times per year. Typically in October, March, and June – the October meeting is designated as the annual meeting of the board.

**Q: How do board meetings work?**

A. The board currently has seven committees that meet monthly to discuss issues and vote on proposals that will then go to the full board meeting for final approval.

At the full board meetings, the whole board meets to hear reports from the College President, Board Chair, and all Board committees about their work since the last full board meeting. The board will also vote on various items such as tuition and budget approval and other board business such as the College's financial sustainability and strategic initiatives.

**Q. What are the committees on the board of trustees?**

Goddard College Board of Trustees  
Frequently Asked Questions  
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A: Academic and Student Affairs; Finance, Audit, and Personnel; Social, Justice, and Inclusion; Campus Planning and Sustainability; Trusteeship; Institution Advancement; and Executive Committee.

The membership of each committee shall consist of no less than three Trustees and the Chairperson of the Board and President sitting as *ex officio*, non-voting members. The President, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee, may assign appropriate College staff to any committee.