

Election of Board Officers

BACKGROUND

The chair and vice chair serve as the officers of the OSU Board of Trustees. Board officers serve two-year terms beginning on July 1 of even-numbered years. The [Board Officers Policy](#) sets out the process for electing the officers of the board. The cycle of elections was altered when former board chair Rani Borkar stepped down to provide for a term of service for that would better support the start of the next presidency. Without this change, board officers would have completed their terms of service just as the next presidency was beginning. At the December 10, 2021 meeting of the board, a special election of the chair and vice chair positions was held to provide for a term of service that would better support the start of the next presidency. Trustee Kirk Schueler was elected as chair and Trustee Patty Bedient was elected as vice chair for a term beginning on December 11, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

To bring the election cycle back into alignment with the Board Officers Policy, another election was held on January 20, 2023 for a term beginning on July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. A vote by ballot was requested. Trustee Schueler was the consensus nominee for the position of chair while two nominees for the position of vice chair were put forward for consideration by the board: Trustee Julie Manning and Trustee Román Hernández. After the ballots were collected, the board secretary read the results of the vote: Trustee Schueler was unanimously re-elected for the position of chair and Trustees Manning and Hernández each received an equal number of votes for the position of vice chair. Further action on the tie for vice chair was tabled. A special meeting of the board was convened on March 7, 2023 and the board voted in support of Manning and Hernández to each serve a six month portion of the one-year term.

As terms of the current board officers are scheduled to end on June 30, 2024, an election will be held at the January 18 – 19, 2024 committee and board meetings.

BOARD SECRETARY FINDINGS

Using the [Board Officers Policy](#) as guidance, on Nov. 17, 2023, Board Secretary Jackie Bangs solicited nominations from trustees for the board chair and vice chair positions. All fourteen voting members of the board responded to the request. The majority of trustees recommended Román Hernández for the chair position, several trustees recommended Julie Manning and one trustee recommended Inara Scott for board chair. Trustee Manning expressed her appreciation for the nominations but chose to withdraw her name from consideration. Trustee Scott similarly declined the nomination, also noting that it did not seem appropriate for the faculty trustee to serve as board chair. Trustee Hernández confirmed his willingness to serve as chair.

For the vice chair position, Román Hernández, Julie Manning and Maria Chávez-Haroldson received nominations. In addition, Trustees Julia Brim-Edwards and Karla Chambers each received a nomination. Trustees Manning, Brim-Edwards and Chambers expressed appreciation for the nominations but withdrew their names from consideration. Trustee Chávez-Haroldson confirmed her willingness to be considered for the vice chair position.

The term of the elected officers is July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026, in alignment with the [Board Officers Policy](#).

NEXT STEPS

The board will consider the nominations put forth for election as board chair and vice chair.