The Cornell University Board of Trustees—Membership as of January 1, 2016

Charter Provision for Membership
Pursuant to the 2002 legislative revision of the University Charter, the board became 64 members on May 22, 2002. Under the revised provisions, there are four ex officio positions, one life member, three governor’s appointees, eight alumni-elected trustees, forty-three members at large (including two each from the fields of agriculture, labor, and business), one employee-elected, two faculty-elected, and two student-elected trustees. The board may elect a member to the honorary position of trustee emeritus. A trustee emeritus may attend and participate in meetings of the board but shall not have the right to vote or to hold elective office on the board. A trustee is not required to be an alumnus of the university unless he or she is elected by the alumni. Currently, of the 64 positions, 56 are held by alumni.

Responsibilities
The Board of Trustees is the ultimate governing body of the university. The board holds four regular meetings a year and carries on its work through ten standing committees and many other subcommittees and task forces. In addition, trustees serve with members of the faculty and students on various administrative boards and with faculty and professional members on advisory councils for ten colleges.

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