



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

Getting the Data: 10 Questions Trustees Should Ask

The key to effective oversight is data. Insist on getting this data regularly. **It is up to you to ensure educational quality and affordability.**

- Tuition over the last five years: Has it exceeded the annual Consumer Price Index? Has it increased as a percentage of median household income?
- The ratio of administrative vs. instructional spending over the last 10 years: Has the growth of administrative spending exceeded that of instructional spending? Why?
- What is our building utilization, Monday through Saturday, and during the summer?
- What are the salaries of top administrators and athletic department personnel? How have salaries for these positions changed over the last 10 years?
- How many courses and credit hours do faculty (tenured, tenure-track, and adjunct) teach per year?
- How do students perform on nationally-normed tests? GRE and licensure exams?

- What do the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) show about our institution?
- What are the four-year, five-year, and six-year graduation rates of our first-time, full-time students for the last five years? If full-time students are not graduating in four years, why not?
- When was the most recent campus climate survey on academic freedom and intellectual diversity?
- How do we choose for ourselves board professional development and independent sources of information on national trends?



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American Council of Trustees and Alumni

1726 M Street NW, Suite 802

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 1-888-ALUMNI-8 or 202-467-6787

Email: info@GoACTA.org | Website: GoACTA.org

**Promoting academic freedom, academic
excellence, and accountability.**