

Michael Rosenblatt responses to Candidate Questionnaire

March 10, 2025

The strength of my candidacy derives from my career as a physician, a scientist, and a humanist. I bring the perspective and experience of having led major organizations in academia and industry, education and research. I believe I am distinct among the nominees in these ways and that my expertise would be valuable in the Overseer group. This background is an essential part of my response to the questionnaire (below).

- 1. What are your views on campus free speech? Should Harvard adhere as closely as practicable to the First Amendment (with narrow exceptions interpreted by courts as immediate threats, incitement, harassment, and unlawful conduct), or impose stricter guidelines? Do you agree with the recommendations set out in the Report issued the past year by Harvard’s Open Inquiry and Constructive Dialogue Working Group?**

Free expression is key to the University’s ability to advance its “one-word” mission: “truth”. Protest is part of free expression. Harassment is not a component of free expression. Students who wish to attend class and teachers who wish to teach have a right to do so. We can have (and need) free expression and protest minus interference in the rights of others.

- 2. During the past year, Harvard adopted its Institutional Voice Principles and as a result it will be the policy of the University not to issue official statements about public matters that do not directly affect the University’s core function. Do you agree with these Principles?**

I understand the reasons for the University to adopt this policy. It seems like a practical solution to operating in a charged climate. While it is disappointing that the University will no longer take a stand on what many see as moral issues, this policy does enable Harvard to double-down on actively creating a neutral but vibrant space for debate and deliberation that fulfills the University’s academic mission.

- 3. During the past year, the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences decided not to require equity, diversity, and inclusion statements as part of its hiring process. Do you agree with this decision? (see below)**

4. What are your views on the importance of viewpoint diversity on campus? If important, how do you think Harvard should cultivate such diversity within its communities (students, faculty, administrators) and classrooms?

I am combining questions 3 and 4 in my response.

I believe the University community benefits from bringing together the most talented people from many backgrounds. The University should preserve this value.

Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to demonstrate with actions my commitment to identifying and recruiting the best talent to leadership positions in the institutions I headed. For example, at Tufts, where I was Dean of the Medical School, I created the position of Dean for Multicultural Affairs and Global Health. I recruited a black woman physician to the position. She helped shape the Tufts curriculum and community.

I also helped recruit the first woman to be CEO of Tufts Medical Center, America's third oldest hospital.

As a physician, I know how to listen and learn from patients from all walks of life. I gave each one my very best care.

As a scientist and humanist, I understand that there is both diversity and commonality amongst people which must be respected and which benefits and enriches society and our lives.

5. If elected, would you be willing to meet occasionally with the leaders and/or members of our groups during your tenure?

Sure.