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I do not think it appropriate for members of the faculty to endorse a particular candidate for the Board of Trustees. But I do think it proper to express an opinion on the qualities needed.

For too long, the Board has adopted the way of the Three Monkeys: "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" (A trustee was recently fired for breaking the last of these rules). The results for the College of this style of governance have not been good.

A more critical attitude is needed. To fulfill its fiduciary duty, the Board must ask hard questions of the administration and demand complete transparency. The Board must ensure that the administration focus on the College's core functions of teaching and research. It must prevent the administration from squandering resources on over-the-top construction, social engineering, or saving the planet.

I have known Joe Asch for several years and followed his op-ed pieces in The Daily Dartmouth. Last year he participated all three of my economics reading groups. His attachment to Dartmouth runs deep. However, his is a tough love: he has been unsparing in his criticism of Dartmouth's faults. Mostly, his criticisms have been on the mark. I think that Joe Asch is well qualified to contribute to a Board that takes its responsibilities seriously.

Meir Kohn