Interested in participating in MOCK CONVENTION?

Come, join the fun and excitement! Help in the planning and promoting of our Mock Convention. There are still positions open. Get informed! Get involved! This year will be your only chance—Mock only happens every four years! Talk with members of the MOCK Executive Committee and Faculty Advisors, check out our website:  http://mock2016.owu.edu/

Mock Convention Executive Committee

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Why a Republican Mock Convention?

To ensure there is lively debate and competition among a number of candidates, Ohio Wesleyan's Mock Convention traditionally represents the party currently not in control of the White House.
There are currently many candidates running for the 2016 Republican Party Presidential Nomination. We are providing information on the leading candidates, as well as those who might be of particular interest to OWU students.

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Former Governor of Florida Jeb Bush  
https://jeb2016.com

Dr. Ben Carson  
https://www.bencarson.com/

US Senator from Texas Ted Cruz  
https://www.tedcruz.org/

Businesswoman & Former CEO of Hewlett-Packard Carly Fiorina  
https://www.carlyforpresident.com/

Governor of Ohio John Kasich  
https://johnkasich.com/

US Senator from Kentucky Rand Paul  
https://www.randpaul.com/

US Senator from Florida Marco Rubio  
https://marcorobio.com/

Businessman, TV Personality & Author Donald Trump  
https://www.donaldjtrump.com/

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Interested in being a State Delegate?  
Contact Sarah Richmond (serichmo@owu.edu)

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Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
(both events on same day)

“Speed Date the Candidates”  
4:00-6:00—HWCC Benes AB

Meeting for all State Chairs  
6:00-8:00—HWCC Benes BC

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MOCK CONVENTION 2016  
February 5-6, 2016  
University Hall—Gray Chapel
**Marco Rubio,** Senator from Florida

“No one should be forced to go broke because they choose to go to college.”

Senator Rubio believes that students and their families should be able to get all of the facts about their degree of choice at a given college or university before they take out student loans.

He argues that he knows what it is like to be crippled by student debt; only last July did he finish paying off his student loans from college and law school. Because of this experience, Senator Rubio has introduced a bipartisan bill into the Senate to help solve America’s student loan crisis. The Dynamic Repayment Act would ensure students face reasonable monthly payments and eliminate most defaults. Additionally, he has said that the United States should bring back vocational schools.

**Donald Trump,** Chairman and President, The Trump Organization

“That’s probably one of the only things the government shouldn’t make money off. I think it’s terrible that one of the only profit centers we have is student loans.”

Businessman Trump recognizes the increasing problems created by student loans and has supported loan forgiveness programs. One solution he has offered is to create more higher-paying jobs in order for more people to be able to pay off their loans in a timely manner. However, he does not want to raise the minimum wage but instead rely on these new jobs to generate income. Trump also argues that students should have access to employment records of universities in order to make better choices as to their futures.

**Jeb Bush,** Former Governor of Florida

“There’s a way to do this where you’re requiring higher education institutions to reform themselves, where they don’t just build in more and more costs.”

Former governor Bush believes that federal student loan programs were financing a “dramatic expansion” of buildings and “prestigious programs for universities to feel good about what they’re doing.” He argues that these universities should be more transparent about how many of their graduates are finding jobs so that potential students can make smarter decisions when choosing a program. Bush co-authored a 2013 essay for *Inside Higher Ed,* predicting a move from “a provider-driven model to a consumer-driven one” and a subsequent upending of “a system that had endured for centuries.” This new higher education model is to include online degree programs with an international student body, keeping costs low by limiting the needs for physical space.

**Dr. Ben Carson,** Former Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital

“Many people get into financial strife because they don’t understand the importance of work…There’s nothing wrong with working a few years before going to school.”

Dr. Carson argues that students should be responsible for paying their own way through school and not rely on loans in the first place. He does not favor legislation as a device to make college more affordable but instead favors more...
“elbow grease” and other private sector solutions. Dr. Carson opposes entitlement programs and believes that students should not attend university unless they have a concrete way to pay for it.

Ted Cruz, Senator from Texas

“I took over $100,000 in school loans, loans I suspect a lot of [you] can relate to, loans that I’ll point out I just paid off a few years ago.”

Senator Cruz has mentioned his own student loans on the campaign trail but has offered few proposals to help student borrowers. He is in favor of putting state governments in charge of student lending and college accreditation standards. In 2013, Cruz’s budgetary amendment proposal decreased Pell Grant funding and installed higher monthly payment percentages for school loans. The following year, Cruz voted to block the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which offered to refinance student loans on lower interest rates.

Carly Fiorina, Businesswoman, Former CEO of Hewlett-Packard

“The government needs to play a far less heavy-handed role here, both in terms of financing a college education and in terms of defining what constitutes an acceptable college education.”

Businesswoman Fiorina has not spoken out widely on student loan debt, but she argues that the student loan industry should be simplified. She wants to return the free market to the student loan industry and enable as much choice and competition in higher education as possible. Businesswoman Fiorina’s plan seeks to privatize student loans in an effort to cut down on debt and interest rates. She also wants to re-invigorate a sense of competition in the loan industry and in higher education in general.

Rand Paul, MD, Senator from Kentucky

“I’ve got a better idea—let’s let college students deduct the cost of their education over their working career!”

Senator Paul argues that college tuition and student loan debt should be tax deductible and wants to do away with current income restrictions and tax credits. In the past he has voted against legislation such as the Comprehensive Student Loan Protection Act and the Student Loan Affordability Act. However, he did vote in favor of a bipartisan bill that extended student loan interest rates to prevent them from doubling in 2010. Further, Senator Paul argues that the Department of Education, with the exception of the Pell Grant program, should be defunded and eliminated in favor of state and local control of education and funding.

John Kasich, 69th Governor of Ohio

“We’re working to go after the cost-drivers but we need to take advantage of online education to reduce the costs.”

Governor Kasich has frequently commented on the student loan crisis, emphasizing the measures his state, Ohio, has taken to combat the issue, including changes in university funding. He argues that online education, Advanced Placement courses, and vocational schools among other alternative education paths could help solve the problem. In Ohio, Kasich proposed a higher education plan in February, 2015, which would combine greater state outlays for higher education with efforts to trim costs for students and their families. The plan would create a college task force to ensure efficiency as well as a cap for tuition at Ohio universities. Further, Kasich has proposed a $120 million college debt relief fund to help students pay off their loans if they graduate from Ohio's public colleges and take in-demand jobs in the state.