

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Policy Type: Governance Process

Approved: November 21, 2006

Revised: September 2013



GP-4 – Board Committee Principles

Board committees, when used, will be assigned so as to reinforce the wholeness of the board's job and so as never to interfere with delegation from board to president.

1. Board committees are to help the board do its job, never to help or advise the staff. Committees ordinarily will assist the board by preparing policy alternatives and implications for board deliberation. In keeping with the board's broader focus, board committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations.
2. Board committees may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and/or time-limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the President.
3. Board committees cannot exercise authority over staff. Because the president works for the full board, he or she will not be required to obtain approval of a board committee before an executive action, except where the committee has been delegated specific authority to act on behalf of the board.
4. An ad hoc board committee that has helped the board create a policy will not then be assigned to monitor compliance with that policy. This separation of responsibility for policy development and responsibility for monitoring policy compliance is to prevent a Committee from identifying with a part of the organization rather than the whole. The board retains responsibility and authority to monitor organizational performance.
5. This policy applies to any group that is formed by board action, whether or not it is called a committee, and whether or not it includes board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the president.
6. All committee members shall abide by the same Code of Conduct as governs the board.
7. Except as defined in written Terms of Reference, no committee has authority to commit the funds or resources of the college.