

Madison College



Policy #1202

Governing Style

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Responsible office(s)	District Board
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POLICY PURPOSE

The Board will govern lawfully with an emphasis on

- (a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation
- (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints
- (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail
- (d) clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles
- (e) collective rather than individual decisions
- (f) future rather than past or present
- (g) proactivity rather than reactivity.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Madison College District Board Members

DEFINITIONS

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board will be comprised of nine members representing two Employers, two Employees, one School District Administrator, one Elected Official, and three At Large members.

The Board will recognize an ex-officio, non-voting student representative to serve as a liaison between the Board and the student body in the interest of furthering communications and to provide input for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life and services. The student representative will serve a one-year term beginning July 1 and expiring June 30 the following year. The student representative shall only have an advisory vote on appropriate matters brought before the Board, and shall not attend closed sessions nor participate in Board deliberations unless called upon to provide information.

Accordingly:

1. The Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will be the initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. The Board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the judgment of the Board, although the

expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Board as a body.

2. The Board will direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the staff organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects. The Board will consider proposed new or revised policies twice – first as an informational item, and then as a recommendation for approval. Upon a majority vote the policy will be incorporated into the Board's policies.
3. The Board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policymaking principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of governance capability. Although the Board can change its governance process policies at any time, it will observe those currently in force scrupulously.
4. Continual Board development will include orientation of new Board members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement.
5. The Board will allow no officer, individual, or committee of the Board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling group obligations.
6. The Board will monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance at each meeting and through an annual self-assessment process. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation categories.
7. Board members are encouraged to attend conferences and seminars. To model accountability, the Board has the following performance criteria:
 - a. Attendance: Members shall, at a minimum, attend 75 percent of board business meetings annually (nine of twelve meetings).
 - b. Participation: Members shall, at a minimum, attend one graduation or similar ceremony per year.
 - c. Advocacy: Members shall, at a minimum, attend one conference annually of either the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association or the Association of Community College Trustees.

- d. If a board member feels strongly that attendance at a conference (in addition to those identified in 7.c.) is in the best interest of the college, a request must be made to the Board Chair with an explanation of why the travel would be of value. The Board Chair will determine if the travel is appropriate.

LINKS TO STATE/FEDERAL REGULATIONS

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

RELATED POLICIES

REVISIONS

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