

BOARD POLICY MANUAL

Type: Governance Process

Approved: April 19, 2011

Policy: GP-2 Governing Style

Revised:

Last Reviewed: April 11, 2024

The Board will govern with an emphasis on outward vision, commitment to obtaining ownership input, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership, clear distinction of Board and staff roles, collective decisions, and a proactive, future focus.

1. The Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will be an initiator of policy. The Board will use the expertise of individual members to enhance the ability of the Board as a body to make policy, rather than to substitute their individual judgements for the group's values.
2. The Board will direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the membership's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the operating organization, not on the administrative means of attaining those effects.
3. The Board will enforce the self-discipline needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policy-making principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuity of governance capability. Although the Board can change its governance process policies at any time, it will scrupulously observe those currently in force.
4. Continual board development will include orientation of new members to the Board's governance process and periodic board discussion of process improvement.
5. The Board will not allow any member or team of the Board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling board obligations.
6. The board will evaluate and discuss the board's process and performance at each meeting. Self-evaluation will include comparison of board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation categories.