

BP 1715 CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

References:

ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11

The Board of Trustees maintains high standards of ethical conduct and adopts Standards of Good Practice to promote a healthy working relationship among its members and its Chancellor, based upon mutual trust and support. Members of the Board of Trustees are responsible to:

- Act only in the best interest of the entire community;
- Ensure public input into Board of Trustees deliberations, adhering to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations;
- Prevent conflicts of interest and the perception of conflicts of interest;
- Support the District mission;
- Ensure that students receive the highest quality education;
- Exercise authority only as a Board of Trustees;
- Use appropriate channels of communication;
- Respect others and act with civility;
- Remain informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of Board membership;
- Devote adequate time to Board of Trustees work;
- Maintain the confidentiality of closed sessions; and
- Deal with any violations.

The Board of Trustees will promptly address any violation by a Board member or Board members of the Code of Ethics in the following manner:

If a Board member feels the Standard of Good Practice Policy has been violated, the Board member should go to the Board member who violated the Standard and have a discussion to resolve the violation.

If not resolved, the Board President is notified of the Standard violation. The Board President, in open session at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, appoints a committee of two Board members to hear the case to determine if censure is in order.

If the appointed Board committee finds that the Board member should be censured, the item will be placed on the next regular Board meeting agenda for full Board discussion.

If alleged behavior violates laws, the President of the Board of Trustees may seek legal counsel and the violations referred to the District Attorney or Attorney General as provided for in law.

Date Adopted: May 15, 2007
Revised: November 25, 2014 (references only)
Reviewed: September 20, 2022
Formerly: 2715

AP 1715 CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

References:

ACCJC Accreditation Standards IV.C.11 (IV.B.1.a, e, and h)

- I. The Board of Trustees and its members shall:
 - A. Act as a policy setting board, with consistent and vigilant oversight of the District, focused on setting priorities, planning and outcome evaluation related equally to instructional and student support quality, operational effectiveness and efficiency, and fiscal stability.
 - B. Ensure the District is in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, religion, disability, sex, or sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures or practices.
 - C. Consider at all times the interests of all citizens throughout the District, maintaining independent judgment unbiased by self-interests, special interest groups, and partisan political groups.
 - D. Communicate and promote the needs of the community to District leaders and the needs of the District to the community by encouraging support for and interest in the District.
 - E. Focus on the educational needs of present and future students and support access to high-quality education and support services for every student.
 - F. Appoint as Chancellor the best-qualified professional leader available and, upon appropriate recommendation, appoint the best-trained faculty and staff available, exhibiting confidence in, and support of, their work and when necessary accepting responsibility for changing personnel and restoring confidence.
 - G. Delegate authority to the Chancellor as the Board's executive officer to initiate policy recommendations, administer education programs and services, conduct District business, and implement Board actions and adhere to the proper boundaries between Board

members and employees so as not to undermine the authority of the Chancellor.

- H. Act as a whole recognizing that legal authority rests only with the Board in a legally constituted meeting. Individual members will not make statements or promises as to how they will vote prior to regular meetings or individually direct staff, District legal counsel, agents of the District, vendors and contractors, unless authorized by the Board of Trustees, as to actions to take.
- I. Conduct District business of the Board in open public meetings, unless permitted by the Brown Act to be conducted in closed session, and maintain the confidentiality of privileged information and Board discussions held in closed session.
- J. Engage in full, open, and fair discussion on all facets of recommendations presented by the Chancellor before Board action, respecting the opinion of others, working together in a spirit of harmony and cooperation, in spite of differences in values and beliefs, to achieve common goals by encouraging compromise, treating fellow Board members with dignity and giving members courteous consideration of their opinions and supporting positive change when necessary.
- K. Make decisions after appropriate and available facts have been presented and discussed and then abide by and uphold the official actions of the Board.
- L. Avoid situations that have, or appear to have, potential for personal gain or constitute a conflict of interest as defined in law, and inform the Board or Board President when a matter under consideration might involve or appear to involve such a conflict.
- M. Promote and encourage open and mutually supportive and accountable participation and initiative of students, faculty and staff in the governance process while maintaining appropriate and well-defined District communication and decision-making channels.
- N. Devote time, thought and study to activities that will enhance one's ability to function effectively as an education governing Board member and attend all scheduled Board meetings as possible.

- O. Avail oneself of opportunities to enhance potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences and training sessions offered by local, state and national organizations and involvement in and being informed about the actions and positions of such organizations.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Board of Trustees

Date Adopted: May 15, 2007

Revised: December 8, 2014 (References only)

(Replaces Regulation 1045)

Formerly: 2715