

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS GP-2

POLICY TITLE: GOVERNING STYLE

The Board will govern with an emphasis on outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership more than administrative detail, clear distinction of Board and President roles, collective rather than individual decisions, future rather than past or present, and proactivity rather than reactivity. The Board will:

1. Deliberate in many voices, but govern in one.
2. Be responsible for excellence in governing and an initiator of policy.
3. 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 operating organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
4. Enforce upon itself whatever discipline is 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.
5. Monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance periodically. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Staff Linkage categories.
6. Continual Board development will include, but not be limited to, orientation of new members in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement.