

PRUDENCE

STEP 1

MEETING BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

THE GOVERNING BOARD'S BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Establish, disseminate, and keep current the institution's mission.

QUESTIONS: Is it up to date? Does it drive institutional efforts?

2. Select a chief executive to lead the institution.

QUESTIONS: Is there an agreed upon process for selecting a new president? Are you happy with it?

3. Support and periodically assess the performance of the chief executive and establish and review the chief executive's compensation.

QUESTIONS: Is there an agreed upon process for assessing presidential performance? How is it working?

THE GOVERNING BOARD'S BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

4. Charge the chief executive with the task of leading a strategic planning process, participate in that process, approve the strategic plan, and monitor its progress.

QUESTIONS: Does your plan drive institutional efforts?
Is it realistic or a weak list?

5. Ensure the institution's fiscal integrity, preserve and protect its assets for posterity, and engage directly in fundraising and philanthropy.

QUESTIONS: Are you getting the right information?
Do you focus on what is most important?

THE GOVERNING BOARD'S BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

6. Ensure the educational quality of the institution.

It is up to the faculty and administration to uphold and improve academic quality. But it is up to the board to understand it and to see that it gets done. Ensuring academic quality is a fiduciary responsibility; it is as much part of our role as board members as ensuring that the institution has sufficient resources and is spending them wisely.

Ewell, Peter. *Making the Grade*, 2006

QUESTIONS: Are you aware of your program to assess student learning? What kind of evidence is collected to measure what students learn? How are assessment results used? Are you kept up to date on the University's response to technological opportunities and threats?

THE GOVERNING BOARD'S BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

7. Preserve and protect institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

QUESTIONS: How does the board participate in accreditation matters? Has the board had occasions when it had to defend academic freedom?

8. Ensure that institutional policies and processes are current and properly implemented.

QUESTIONS: Is it clear who does what? Policy versus administration?

9. In concert with senior administration, engage regularly with the institution's major constituencies.

QUESTIONS: Opportunities for views to be heard? Who speaks and when?

THE GOVERNING BOARD'S BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

10. Conduct the board's business in an exemplary fashion and with appropriate transparency, adhering to the highest ethical standards; ensure the currency of board governance policies and practices; and periodically assess the performance of the board, its committees, and its members.

QUESTIONS: Are bylaws up to date and relevant?
Policies on conflicts of interest? Orientation/Self
assessments?

Association of Governing Boards. Effective
Governing Boards. Washington, D.C.: 2011