

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. Agenda Item Title: *Handbook* Revision-Standing Committees of the Board of Regents
Meeting Date: December 3-4, 2015

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The Board of Regents Bylaws contained in *Handbook* Title 1, Article VI, Sections 1-3 authorize the appointment of standing committees and the designation of their duties. The Chair and Vice Chair are proposing a revision to the Bylaws providing for the reorganization of the Cultural Diversity Committee to the Cultural Diversity and Title IX Compliance Committee.

The realignment would be accomplished by adding Title IX issues to the committee's charge. Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681(a)) prohibits any person, on the basis of sex, from being excluded from participation in, being denied the benefits of, or being subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. This subject is critically important and aligns naturally with cultural diversity issues. It will receive appropriate emphasis by being specifically mentioned in the committee charge and name.

This is the second of two hearings required at regular Board meetings for a change to the Bylaws. The first hearing occurred at the September 10, 2015, Board meeting. A two-thirds vote in the affirmative is required to amend the Bylaws of the Board.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Add Title IX issues to the Cultural Diversity Committee charge and change the committee name to the Cultural Diversity and Title IX Compliance Committee.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The realignment of Title IX issues and their inclusion in the charge of the new Cultural Diversity and Title IX Compliance Committee will facilitate consideration of the business and management of the System and enhance the efficiency of the Board.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

A focused effort on Title IX issues within the System and the NSHE institutions is appropriate and can be addressed by the realigned committee.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The present Board standing committee structure efficiently processes Board business.

7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Leave the current standing committee configuration in place.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title #__1__ Article VI #____ Section #__3__
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No____
Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
TITLE 1, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3
Standing Committees and their Duties

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 3. Standing Committees and their Duties

The following shall be the standing committees of the Board and their duties:

d. The ***Cultural Diversity and Title IX Compliance Committee*** shall:

1. [~~s~~] Study issues and recommend policies to the Board in an effort to promote cultural and ethnic diversity throughout the System in order to ensure access and equity for all students.

[~~The Committee shall: 1.~~]

2. Review and examine issues, information, and activities that promote diversity among the students, staff and faculty of the System;

[2] 3. Examine information and indicators regarding student access and equity;

[3] 4. Make recommendations to the Board intended to create, enhance, promote, and support an educational environment that welcomes all cultural and ethnic minorities; [~~and~~]

[4] 5. Take actions appropriate to increase awareness, visibility, and emphasis of campus diversity programs[~~-~~];

6. ***Examine information and indicators regarding Title IX compliance and make any policy recommendations to the Board; and***

7. ***Make recommendations to the Board regarding Title IX initiatives that foster awareness of and enhance commitment to a non-discriminatory campus environment.***