

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Board of Regents Annual Self-Evaluation Policy

MEETING DATE: December 1-2, 2016

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At its meeting held on August 25-26, 2016 the Board discussed the need to conduct an annual self-evaluation including whether the Board is meeting its primary goals of: (1) improving student success and increasing degree productivity; (2) closing the college attainment gap for historically underrepresented groups; and (3) increasing transparency, accountability and performance.

As part of that discussion the Board also conducted a preliminary review of the attached Policy Proposal mandating that the Board conduct an annual self-evaluation. At the direction of the Board the policy proposal has been revised to eliminate the requirement that the annual self-evaluation take place at a “special meeting” of the Board. The policy proposal now makes clear that the annual self-evaluation can take place at any meeting of the Board – regular or special.

Because this Policy Proposal is an amendment to the Bylaws of the Board, approval requires action at two regular meetings as provided in Title 1, Article VIII, Section 1 of the Handbook. This item will serve as the initial reading of this Policy Proposal with final action occurring at the Board’s March 2016 meeting.

2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

- That the Board provide notice and conduct an initial reading of the attached Policy Proposal providing for an annual Board Self-Evaluation. Pursuant to Title 1, Section VIII, Section 1 of the Handbook – the Policy Proposal will be presented for final action at the March 2016 meeting of the Board.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This Policy Proposal was prepared at the direction of the Board and was reviewed in concept at the August 25-16, 2016 meeting of the Board.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Best practices call of governing boards to conduct annual self-evaluations in order to ensure the board meets is goals and fiduciary obligations.
- Annual Board self-evaluations are mandated by certain accrediting organizations and agencies.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- That a formalized self-evaluation policy is not necessary and that the Board can engage in self-assessment whenever it determines on an *ad hoc* basis.

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

N/A

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 1 , Article VIII – by adding a new Section 28 (Annual Self-Evaluation)
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes_____ No X
Explain:_____

BOARD OF REGENTS BYLAWS PROPOSAL
TITLE 1, ARTICLE V, new SECTION 28
ANNUAL BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

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

28. Annual Board Self-Evaluation.

On an annual basis the Board of Regents will conduct a self-evaluation of its performance as a governing and policy making body. The purpose of the annual self-evaluation is to identify ways to strengthen the Board's effectiveness and to meet relevant accreditation standards for NSHE's institutions. The self-evaluation process will include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1. Each year the Board will review its performance and effectiveness for the prior calendar year, in the following areas:**
 - a. Board organization;**
 - b. Policy development and review of policies;**
 - c. Relations with business, community and political leaders;**
 - d. Board/Chancellor/Presidents and staff relations;**
 - e. System and institutional operations and performance;**
 - f. Board commitment to legal requirements, policies and responsibilities, including state and Board of Regents Ethics Codes, Open Meeting and Public Records laws;**
 - g. Board commitment to diversity and inclusiveness;**
 - h. Board oversight of financial affairs and budgeting;**
 - i. Board stewardship of System investments/endowments;**
 - j. Ensuring adequate and safe physical facilities;**
 - k. Board role in approving academic programs;**
 - l. Commitment to protection of academic freedom;**
 - m. Board leadership;**
 - n. Quality of Board meetings;**
 - o. Orientation and training of new Board members;**
 - p. Training opportunities for Board members;**
 - q. Strengths and accomplishments;**
 - r. Weaknesses and areas in need of improvement; and**
 - s. Progress made in achieving goals and the effectiveness of the Board's strategies for achieving its goals.**
- 2. In consultation with the Chair, the Chief of Staff of the Board and the Chancellor will compile data and information relevant to the Board's performance in each of these areas for the prior calendar year for presentation to the Board at the meeting. With the approval of the Chair, additional areas may be added to the self-evaluation. The data and information gathered may also include the use of self-evaluation instruments such as surveys, on-line assessments or questionnaires, personal interviews, and opportunities for input from internal and external constituencies.**

- 3. At the meeting, the Board will review the data and information gathered by the Chief of Staff and Chancellor, make findings regarding the Board's performance and effectiveness, and identify goals and strategies for improvement. In consultation with the Chair, a final report that summarizes the results of the self-evaluation will be prepared by the Chief of Staff and the Chancellor, and presented to the Board for approval at the next meeting of the Board.**
- 4. The self-evaluation process will be conducted in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including the Nevada Open Meeting and Public Records laws.**

Sources¹:

**Utah System of Higher Education, R123, Board Self-Evaluation and Orientation Policy
"Assessing Board Effectiveness: Resources for Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation," Community College League of California, 2009
ACCT, Guide to Board Self-Assessments**

¹ Sources are for reference only and not for codification.