

Compact Between the Cerritos College Board of Trustees and President/Superintendent

In order to maintain a successful and positive working relationship, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees and President/Superintendent affirm the following best practices, board policies, and administrative procedures:

Trust, Respect and Partnership

- The Board and President will focus on the college's mission and make student learning and success the central goal of all policies, procedures, and decisions.
- The Board and President will communicate often to understand how things are going and to understand each other's needs in achieving student success.
- The Board and President will respect each other as professionals with expertise to be valued and recognized.
- The Board and President will operate as a team for the good of the students.
- The Board and President will follow the no surprises in public rule and allow opportunities for input prior to an item being presented.
- The Board will trust the President to act in accordance with the Board's direction.
- The Board will ask good questions but also trust the President's recommendations.
- The Board and President will support each other when difficult decisions are reached.
- The Board will establish overarching goals and delegate authority to the President to effectively carry out the vision of the Board.
- No individual Board member will give direction to the President, acknowledging that the Board only has authority as a unit.

Confidentiality

The confidentiality of closed session allows for candid discussion of appropriate topics. All participants in closed session will maintain the absolute confidentiality of closed session discussions. Any suspected breach of closed session confidentiality is to be referred to the Board President as a complaint of misconduct, as outlined in Board Policy 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice.

The Board's Role

- The Board is the ultimate decision-maker in those areas assigned to it by state and federal laws and regulations, which includes the authority over and responsibility for policies to ensure the academic quality, integrity, and effectiveness of the student learning programs and services and the financial stability/budget of the college.
- The Board will uphold the Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice as outlined in Board Policy 2715.
- Board members recognize that contacts with the media are primarily handled by the Superintendent/President and/or Board President as outlined in Board Policy 2715.
- The Board will allocate time to prepare for and attend meetings.
- The Board will focus on policy and outcomes, not operations and processes.
- Board members have authority only when they are meeting as a board; trustees contribute their collective talents, skills, and perspectives, but have no individual power to set policy, direct staff, or make statements representing the board, unless they are reports or adopted positions and policy.
- Board members support board decisions once they are made, in accordance with Accreditation Standard IV.B.1.a.
- The Board will foster collegiality, professionalism, and civility.
- The Board will build community connections and serve as the voice for the entire community.
- The Board will study and follow best practices for boards.
- The Board has ultimate authority for the hiring of personnel but, in practice, delegates the operational hiring responsibility to the President/Superintendent. The Board's one employee is the President/Superintendent.

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The President's Role

- The Board delegates to the President the executive responsibility and authority for administering the policies adopted by the Board and executing all decisions of the Board of Trustees requiring administrative action, as outlined in Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 2430 Delegation of Authority.
- The Board relies on the President/Superintendent to ensure that board policies, administrative procedures, and contracts are crafted with the purpose of ensuring that the college is comprised of highly qualified personnel who are dedicated to student success and learning.
- The President shall ensure that all relevant laws and regulations are complied with, and that required reports are submitted in a timely fashion.
- The President will foster collegiality, professionalism, and civility.
- The President will build community connections and serve as the voice for the entire community.
- The President will study and follow best practices for CEOs.

Requests for Information

- Any individual member of the Board of Trustees requesting routine and readily available information or documentation on any agenda item or item likely to become an agenda item shall direct each initial request to the President or in his/her absence any of the Vice Presidents.
- Requests for information which are not routine and readily available shall only come through a majority vote of the Board of Trustees acting as a body.
- Any written information provided to such Board member shall be provided to all Board members.