

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities: Sustaining Institutional Autonomy and Board Independence

Texas Higher Education
Leadership Conference

60x30TX

Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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Essential Responsibilities of Boards

1. Having ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the system or institution
2. Recruiting, compensating, and reviewing the performance of the president
3. Making decisions about finance



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Essential Responsibilities of Boards

4. Overseeing the public trust they hold
5. Responsible for:
 - Ensuring the independence of the institution
 - Safeguarding academic freedom
6. Defining the terms of shared governance within their institutions



Essential Responsibilities of Boards

7. Reaching out to multiple constituencies, both internal and external
8. Also responsible for:
 - Broadly defining the educational mission of the institution
 - Generally determining the academic programs the institution will offer
 - Ultimately being accountable for the quality of the students' learning experience

Essential Responsibilities of Boards

THERE IS
NO RIGHT WAY
TO DO
A WRONG THING.



9. Understanding the legal and regulatory environment within which their institution operates and ensuring compliance
10. Conducting the board's business in an exemplary fashion and with appropriate transparency, adhering to the highest ethical standards

Partnership: Board and President

Board of the
President

1. Clear expectations
2. Common sense of purpose
3. Shared vision
4. Mutually agreed upon plan
5. Commitment to inclusion by all stakeholders

President of
the Board

Performing vs. High-Performing Boards

Performing Boards	High-Performing Boards
Get the work done/Do things right	Decide which work is most important/Do the right things
Perform work that's "good enough"	Set high, realistic expectations
Have a strategic plan	Align plan strategies
Improve incrementally	Focus on substantial improvement

Performing vs. High-Performing Boards

Performing Boards	High-Performing Boards
React to challenges	Focus on change
Provide adequate finances	Gain financial strength & productivity
Have positive recognition	Have a positive reputation
Use anecdotes	Measure what matters

Performing vs. High-Performing Boards

Performing Boards	High-Performing Boards
Attend	Engage
Defer to president	Use integral leadership
Are cordial	Participate in constructive, informed dialogue
Are open to change	Embrace change

Questions or Comments?

