

BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Reference:

ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11;
WASC/ACS Criterion 2, Indicator 2.1

- 1.0 The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Members of the Board are responsible to establish and uphold, implement and enforce all laws and codes applying to the District. Given this basic charge, the activities and deliberations of the Board of Trustees will be governed by the following Code of Ethics:

Each member of the Board will:

- 1.1 Avoid any situation that may constitute a conflict of interest and disqualify him/herself from participating in decisions in which he or she has a financial interest. Conflicts of interest may relate not only to the individual trustee but also to his or her family and business associates, or transactions between the District and trustees, including hiring relatives, friends, and business associates as college employees.
- 1.2 Recognize that the Board acts as a whole and that the authority rests only with the Board in a legally constituted meeting, not with individual members.
- 1.3 Maintain confidentiality of all Board discussions held in closed session and recognize that deliberations of the Board in closed session are not to be released or discussed in public without the prior approval of the Board by majority vote, in compliance with BP 2315.
- 1.4 As an agent of the public - entrusted with public funds - protect, advance, and promote the interest of all citizens maintaining independent judgment unbiased by private interests or special interest groups.
- 1.5 Ensure that the District, in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, religion, disability, sex, or sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures or practices.
- 1.6 In all decisions hold the educational welfare and equality of opportunity of the students of the District as his or her primary concern; Board members should demonstrate interest in and respect for student accomplishments by attending student ceremonies and events.
- 1.7 Attend and participate in all meetings insofar as possible, having prepared for discussion and decision by studying all agenda materials.
- 1.8 Conduct all District business in open public meetings unless in the judgment of the Board, and only for those purposes permitted by law, it is appropriate to hold a closed session.
- 1.9 Enhance his or her ability to function effectively as a trustee through devotion of time to study contemporary educational issues, as well as attendance at

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professional workshops and conferences on the duties and responsibilities of trustees.

- 1.10 Promote and maintain good relations with fellow Board members by:
 - 1.10.1 Respectfully working with other Board members in the spirit of harmony and cooperation and giving each member courteous consideration of his or her opinion.
 - 1.10.2 Respecting the opinion of others and abiding by the principle of majority rule.
- 1.11 Promote an effective working relationship with the Chancellor and district staff by:
 - 1.11.1 Providing the responsibility, necessary authority, and support to effectively perform their duties.
 - 1.11.2 Referring complaints and/or criticisms through the appropriate channels as previously agreed upon by the Chancellor and the Board.
- 1.12 Be an advocate of the District in the community by encouraging support for and interest in the North Orange County Community College District.
- 2.0 All Board members are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior and to adhere to the Board's Code of Ethics. The Board will be prepared to investigate the factual basis behind any charge or complaint of trustee misconduct. A Board member may be subject to a resolution of censure by the Board should it be determined that trustee misconduct has occurred. Censure is an official expression of disapproval passed by the Board.
- 3.0 A complaint of trustee misconduct will be referred to an ad hoc committee composed of three trustees not subject to the complaint. In a manner deemed appropriate by the committee, a fact-finding process shall be initiated and completed within a reasonable period of time to determine the validity of the complaint. The committee shall be guided in its inquiry by the standards set forth in the Board's Code of Ethics as defined in policy. The trustee subject to the charge of misconduct shall not be precluded from presenting information to the committee. The committee shall, within a reasonable period of time, make a report of its findings to the Board for action.

See Administrative Procedure 2715

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