

Southwestern Oregon Community College

BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Purpose

To establish and define code of ethics and standards of practice

Statement

Southwestern Oregon Community College Board of Education expects ethical conduct of its members. This includes proper use of authority, appropriate decorum, and courteous individual behavior when acting as a member of the Board.

1. Individual Board members shall maintain non-conflicting loyalty to the interests of the College district (ownership). This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty to any special interest groups.
2. Individual Board members shall avoid any conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
 - a. There shall be no self-dealing or any conduct of private business or personal services between any Board member and the organization except as procedurally controlled to assure openness, competitive opportunity, and equal access to information.
 - b. Individual Board members shall not use their positions to obtain employment at the College for themselves, family members, or close associates.
 - c. Board members shall comply with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission laws for public officials (potential and actual conflicts of interest).
3. Board members shall exercise authority over the College, the College President, and/or personnel only as explicitly set forth in Board policies.
4. Board members are elected from a diverse population to at-large positions to represent the College district.
5. Individual Board members, when communicating with the public, shall keep in mind the vision, mission, and values of the College.
6. Board members shall not represent their individual opinions as the consensus of the entire Board.
7. During a public Board meeting, should an individual board member's behavior violate the expected model of appropriate decorum, the Board Chair reserves the right to immediately adjourn the Board meeting.
8. Board members shall refrain from using any personal electronic devices during a meeting of the Board of Education. Muting of, or turning off, a cellular phone is mandatory during all meetings. If a member of the Board must respond to a phone message, they should do so in a quiet manner by leaving the meeting to respond and

not interrupt or distract others. This directive also applies to personal laptops or computers.

9. Board members shall maintain confidentiality regarding Executive Session deliberations.

All Board of Education members will maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior and to adhere to the Board's Code of Ethics. The Board of Education will be prepared to investigate the factual basis behind any charge or complaint of Board member misconduct. A Board of Education member may be subject to a resolution of censure by the Board of Education should it be determined that trustee misconduct has occurred. Censure is an official expression of disapproval passed by the Board.

A complaint of Board of Education member misconduct shall be referred to an ad hoc committee composed of three Board of Education members not subject to the complaint. In a manner deemed appropriate by the committee, a fact-finding process will be initiated and completed within a reasonable period to determine the validity of the complaint. The committee will be guided in its inquiry by the standards set forth in the Board of Education's Code of Ethics as defined in policy. The Board of Education member subject to the charge of misconduct will not be precluded from presenting information to the committee.

The committee shall, within a reasonable period, make a report of its findings to the Board of Education for action.

References:

NWCCU Standard 2.D.2
ORS 244.010 to ORS 244.400

Adopted: 10/24/2022