

SECTION 1 - GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY 1.13

CODE OF ETHICS

Each member of the Board is an appointed representative of the citizens of the entire District and therefore embraces the public's trust. The Board members' obligations, as a group, are both legal and ethical. Each member promises to carry out his/her duties with the very highest ethical conduct, and to carry out the Board's requirements under the applicable education code provisions of the State of Wisconsin and such other local, state, and federal laws as apply.

1. Board members must maintain unconflicted loyalty to the interests of the ownership. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staffs. This accountability supersedes the personal interest of any Board member acting as an individual consumer of College services.
2. Board members must assure that all actions and decisions are done to better serve the community since this is the primary reason for the College's existence.
3. Board members must help create and sustain an atmosphere in which controversial issues or different philosophical stances can be presented fairly and in which the dignity of each individual is maintained.
4. Board members must avoid any conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
 - a. Board members must maintain confidentiality of privileged information, including topics discussed in legally permitted closed sessions, and refuse to use their position on the Board or any confidential information in any way for personal gain.
 - b. Board members must not use their positions to obtain employment by the College for themselves, family members, friends or associates. Should a board member apply for employment with the college, he or she must first resign from the Board.
 - c. Board members must not vote on any matter before the Board which does or could result in financial gain for themselves, family members, friends, or associates, except as permitted in WI Statute Section 946.13 or as otherwise permitted by law.
 - d. When the Board is to decide upon an issue about which a member has an unavoidable conflict of interest, that member shall absent him/herself without comment not only from the vote but also from the deliberation.
5. Board members recognize that each Trustee is only one member of the Board, and that all Board actions are taken as a whole in such a manner that the best interests of the entire College community are advanced.
 - a. Board members' interaction with the President or with staff must recognize the lack of authority in any individual Board member or group of Board members except as noted in Board policies.
 - b. Board members' interaction with the public, press, or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the similar inability of any Board member or Board members to speak for the Board beyond simply reporting Board decisions. The Board Chairperson is the official media spokesperson for the Board.
 - c. Board members will express no judgments of the President's or staff's performance except as that performance is assessed in accordance with explicit Board policies.
 - d. Although all members are obligated to register differences of opinion on Board issues at the board level as passionately as desired, individual members may not direct their differences of opinion to staff in a manner which would create dissension or polarization in the organization or undermine a decision of the Board majority.

6. Board members will sign an annual statement affirming this code of ethics and submit an annual economic interest statement to the State of Wisconsin as required by statute.

Adopted: August 17, 2000

Reviewed: March 21, 2002, July 14, 2008, April 15, 2010, April 21, 2011, April 19, 2012, June 16, 2016