

HLC Fact of the Week:
“HLC Language Related to Governing Boards”
(June 16, 2017)

There is considerable HLC language relating to governing boards – language from the [guiding values](#), the [assumed practices](#), and the [Criteria for Accreditation](#). Here is a complete listing of that language:

HLC Guiding Value That References Governing Board:

7. Governance for the well-being of the institution

The well-being of an institution requires that its **governing board** place that well-being above the interests of its own members and the interests of any other entity. Because HLC accredits the educational institution itself, and not the state system, religious organization, corporation, medical center or other entity that may own it, it holds the **governing board** of an institution accountable for the key aspects of the institution’s operations. The **governing board** must have the independent authority for such accountability and must also hold itself independent of undue influence from individuals, be they donors, elected officials, supporters of athletics, shareholders, or others with personal or political interests.

Governance of a quality institution of higher education will include a significant role for faculty, in particular with regard to currency and sufficiency of the curriculum, expectations for student performance, qualifications of the instructional staff, and adequacy of resources for instructional support.

HLC Assumed Practices that Reference Governing Board:

A 1. The institution has a conflict of interest policy that ensures that the **governing board** and the senior administrative personnel act in the best interest of the institution.

A 8. The **governing board** and its executive committee, if it has one, include some “public” members. Public members have no significant administrative position or any ownership interest in any of the following: the institution itself; a company that does substantial business with the institution; a company or organization with which the institution has a substantial partnership; a parent, ultimate parent, affiliate, or subsidiary corporation; an investment group or firm substantially involved with one of the above organizations. All publicly-elected members or members appointed by publicly-elected individuals or bodies (governors, elected legislative bodies) are public members.

A 9. The **governing board** has the authority to approve the annual budget and to engage and dismiss the chief executive officer.

HLC Criteria for Accreditation that Reference Governing Board:

1.A.1 The mission statement is developed through a process suited to the nature and culture of the institution and is adopted by the **governing board**.

2.A. The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its **governing board**, administration, faculty, and staff.

2.C.1 The **governing board's** deliberations reflect priorities to preserve and enhance the institution.

2.C.2 The **governing board** reviews and considers the reasonable and relevant interests of the institution's internal and external constituencies during its decision-making deliberations.

2.C.3 The **governing board** preserves its independence from undue influence on the part of donors, elected officials, ownership interests, or other external parties when such influence would not be in the best interest of the institution.

2.C.4 The **governing board** delegates day-to-day management of the institution to the administration and expects the faculty to oversee academic matters.

5.B.1 The **governing board** is knowledgeable about the institution; it provides oversight of the institution's financial and academic policies and practices and meets its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.

5.B.2 The institution has and employs policies and procedures to engage its internal constituencies—including its **governing board**, administration, faculty, staff, and students—in the institution's governance.

To learn more about accreditation and Lindenwood's comprehensive evaluation and site visit scheduled for November 6-7, 2017, and to see the countdown clock to the visit, go to the HLC page on the Lindenwood website here: <http://www.lindenwood.edu/about/higher-learning-commission/>.

Past HLC Facts of the Week are archived [here](#).

Questions? Contact David Wilson, Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness, at DWilson@lindenwood.edu or x4737.