Principles of Accreditation

Compliance Report

Chipola College Compliance Audit Report

SACS Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4

3.2.4 - External Influence

The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence.

Judgment of Compliance

☑ In Compliance

Statement of Rationale for Judgment of Compliance

The Chipola Board of Trustees is composed of nine members appointed by the Florida governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate (1). The members of the Board of Trustees are State Officers; and, as such, they are subject to the Standard of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees set out in state law (2). Pursuant to this state statute, Board members are subject to prohibitions concerning solicitation of gifts, doing business with one’s own agency, acceptance of unauthorized compensation, misuse of public position, conflicting employment or contractual relationships, and improper disclosure or use of certain information (2). In addition, Board members must comply with requirements of law relating to voting conflict (3). The Board is subject to Florida's open meetings and public records laws (4).

The Board has established a Code of Ethics for the Board members in carrying out their responsibilities (5). Likewise, the Board has adopted policies on Mandatory Integrity in College Operations (6), and Assurance of Data and Communication Accuracy and Integrity (7) to promote a culture of integrity within the institution. As a safeguard, the program includes an Ethics Hotline to which employees, students, or community members may report actions. See (8) for guidelines governing the Ethics Hotline.

The college initiated the Ethics and Compliance Program to ensure that the college operates in full compliance with state, federal, and local laws in addition to the rules and policies of the Board of Trustees (8). Further, a portion of the agenda for each Board meeting is dedicated to hearing from the public and internal college constituencies. See (9) for a sample agenda. See also CS 3.2.3 – Board Conflict of Interest for information about Board training.

Documentation:

[1] Florida Statutes, Section 1001.61(1), (2). Community College Boards of Trustees; Membership


[4] Florida Statutes, Section 286.011. Public Meetings and Records; Public Inspection; Criminal and Civil Penalties; Florida Statutes Chapter 119, The Public Records Act

[5] Chipola College Board Policy Number 1.010: The District Board of Trustees

[6] Chipola College Board Policy Number 1.004: Mandatory Integrity in College Operations

[7] Chipola College Board Policy Number 1.005: Assurance of Data and Communications Accuracy and Integrity

[8] Ethics Hotline, Chipola College Ethics and Compliance Program

[9] Sample agenda, Chipola College District Board of Trustees, February 21, 2006