Response to Findings of the Off-Site Review Committee

Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5

3.2.5 The governing board has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process. (Board dismissal)

SACS Off-Site Committee Comment

The Compliance Certification indicates the Constitution of the State of Florida governs the conditions under which a trustee can be removed. While this applies to Chipola College Trustees and includes the conditions under which a trustee may be suspended or removed, there is no evidence that the Chipola College Trustees have a policy or procedure outlining the process by which board members can be dismissed other than that outlined in item #4 of Florida Statute 2006: 1001.61 [1], which states, “It is the further duty of the chair of each board of trustees to notify the Governor, in writing, whenever a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year, which absences may be grounds for removal.” The On-Site Review Committee should confirm that the governing board has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for cause.

Chipola College Response

The District Board of Trustees has revised and approved Board Policy 1.010 [2], which clarifies that members of the governing board can be dismissed only for cause and by due process. The reasons are clearly outlined in the policy, which states:

Dismissal – The members of the District Board of Trustees of Chipola College may only be dismissed for cause and by due process. Florida law provides for dismissal and the process for dismissal for malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, drunkenness, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, commission of a felony or failure to attend three consecutive meetings in a fiscal year.
Documentation:

[1] Florida Statutes, Section 1001.61(4), Community College Boards of Trustees; Membership

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

Original Compliance Report – Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5