

## 2.C - Core Component 2.C

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The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity.

1. The governing board's deliberations reflect priorities to preserve and enhance the institution.
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.
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.
4. The governing board delegates day-to-day management of the institution to the administration and expects the faculty to oversee academic matters.

### Argument

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**2.C.1.** As defined in Iowa Code, [the Iowa Board of Regents](#) is comprised of nine citizens who govern five public educational institutions in the state through policy making, coordination, and oversight. The Board enhances Iowans' quality of life by maintaining the educational quality, accessibility, and public service activities of Iowa's three public universities – the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa; and two special preschool/K-12 grade schools – the Iowa School for the Deaf and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. Board members are volunteers appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate to serve staggered six-year terms. One member must be a full-time student at one of the universities when appointed and not more than five members can be of the same political party. The mission and vision of the Board reflect a deep commitment to creating the best public education enterprise in the U.S. to serve the needs of Iowa, its citizens, and the world. According to its [2010-2016 Strategic Plan](#), the Board, working through Iowa's public universities and special schools:

1. Provides high-quality accessible education to students
2. Engages in high-quality research, scholarship, and creative activities to enhance the quality of life for Iowans and society in general
3. Provides needed public services
4. Creates and supports economic development in partnership with public and private sectors

The Board has established [standing committees](#) that focus on key board responsibilities: Audit/Compliance and Investment Committee, Education and Student Affairs Committee, Economic Development Committee, Human Resources Committee, Property and Facilities Committee, and a committee focused on the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

As documented in recent board meeting minutes ([April 2015](#), [June 2015](#)) board discussion topics are aligned with board responsibilities. Two recent initiatives reflect the Board's commitment to insuring that resources are best used to meet the goals outlined above. First, the board commissioned a task force to develop a proposed [performance-based funding model](#) to allocate state appropriations across the three public universities based on criteria that align with the mission of the board and the universities. Secondly, the board is conducting a [Transparent, Inclusive Efficiency Review \(TIER\)](#) that is looking at efficiencies. (More details on TIER included in 5.D.2.)

2.C.2. The Board considers input from external and internal constituents informally and formally. Board members are available for individual contact via emails and phone numbers available from the Board website. [Agenda Items](#) for Board meetings are publicly available on the Board website a week in advance of regularly scheduled Board meetings. Approximately four working days prior to each Board meeting, [public hearings](#) are held across the state (and electronically) that allow constituents to share comments or concerns with the Board. Internal constituencies are represented officially at Board meetings via the University President, who delivers an "Institutional Heads" report as a standing agenda item. ISU senior leaders, including the senior vice presidents, Faculty Senate president, and the P&S Council president, are typically invited to lunch with the regents on meeting days. The Board also meets with student leaders before each meeting. These informal interactions provide an opportunity for input and discussions. In compliance with state open meeting laws, meetings of the Board are open to the public. Meetings are also available live via web-streaming from the Board's website.

2.C.3. As described in detail in 2.A., the Board has policies and processes to address concerns with [conflicts of interest](#). In addition, as documented in [Board minutes](#), all votes of the Board are done via roll call, which allow for accountability and documented abstention in cases of potential conflict of interest. The limit that no more than five members of the Board can be from the same political party reduces undue political influence by a single party. The appointment process that includes both the governor and the Iowa Senate helps ensure the Board is both objective and representative.

2.C.4. Board responsibilities are specified in [Iowa Code Chapter 262](#) and outlined in the Board Policy Manual. The Manual also allows the Board to delegate responsibilities to others. For example, Board Policy 7.01 requires "*the university to have a business office to which the board may delegate duties.*" While the Board delegates responsibilities for the day-to-day management to the institutions, the Board maintains oversight responsibilities via a [schedule of regular reports](#) from the University. The development of academic programs originates from the faculty and includes a multi-step review and approval process.

## Sources

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- Academic Program Approval - Board of Regents Policy Manual
- Board of Regents Minutes - April 2015
- Board of Regents Minutes - June 2015
- Board of Regents Strategic Plan - 2010-2016
- BOR Agenda Items April 2015
- BOR Meeting Dates-Public Forum Schedule 2015
- Conflict of Interest Policy - Board of Regents Policy Manual
- Governance Report Schedule Calendar Year 2015
- Iowa Code - Chapter 262 Board of Regents Sect 1-9
- Iowa Code Chapter 21 - Open Meetings Law
- Performance Based Funding Task Force Report and Board Support
- Standing Committees - Board of Regents Policy Manual
- TIER Press Release 6-16-14