

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Overview of Statutory Governance Roles and Responsibilities

Powers and Duties of the Board of Governors

(24 P.S. §20-2006-A)

The Board of Governors (Board) has overall responsibility for planning and coordinating the development and operation of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (State System).

With respect to the chancellor, the Board: hires for a fixed term contract of no longer than five years; sets salary; evaluates; and delineates the duties and responsibilities.

With respect to university presidents, the Board: appoints from the list of candidates provided by the chancellor after recommendation by the council of trustees; sets salaries and other terms of appointment; and establishes the procedures for evaluation of the president by the chancellor, the Board and the councils of trustees.

The Board establishes broad fiscal, personnel and educational policies for the universities.

- Fiscal Includes:
 - Approving the annual capital and operating budgets of the State System and capital building projects.
 - Setting tuition, including a differential for students who are residents of the Commonwealth and those who are nonresidents.
 - Adopting general policies regarding student activity fees and the waiver, deferment and refund of tuition fees and other charges and fees.
 - Establishing the amount for fines for violations of rules regarding the use, parking and operation of motor vehicles on State System property.
- Personnel includes establishing general personnel policies.
- Educational Includes:
 - Approving new degree programs and extensions
 - Establishing general policies for student admissions and discipline

In General/Other:

- Represent the State System before the General Assembly, the Governor, and the State Board of Education.
- Make all reasonable rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 188 and the duties of the Board.
- Perform generally all of those things necessary and required to accomplish the role and objectives of the State System.

Powers and Duties of the Chancellor

(24 P.S. §20-2005-A)

“The chief executive officer of the System”:

- Advises the Board on policy development and oversees policy implementation.
- Provides recommendations to the Board on State System’s overall budget.
- Reviews and recommends academic programs for the Board’s approval.
- Conducts comprehensive planning for the role and scope of each university, instructional programs, research programs and public service programs in consultation with State System and university constituent groups.

Administers the State System under policies prescribed by the Board:

- Employ central office staff appropriate for the efficient discharge of her/his duties.
- Administration of the central office, System-wide business procedures, and maintenance of university physical plants and security.
- Contracting/Procurement.

With respect to presidents, the chancellor:

- Assists the Board in the appointment process for presidents, including submitting the name(s), recommended salary and other proposed employment terms for the candidate(s) recommended by the council of trustees.
- Prepares performance evaluation procedures for presidents that includes an evaluation conducted by the council of trustees and comments by the chancellor.

Other:

- Negotiates collective bargaining agreements on behalf of, and subject to, the approval of the Board.
- Performs such other duties as the Board may designate.
- Serves as an ex-officio member of the council of trustees of each university.

Powers and Duties of the Councils of Trustees

(24 P.S. §20-2009-A)

With respect to university presidents:

- Make recommendations to the chancellor for the appointment, retention or dismissal of the president after consulting with students, faculty and alumni.
- Evaluate the president in accordance with the procedures established by the Board.
- Assist the president in developing relations and understanding between the university and the public.

Educational:

- Review and approve the recommendations of the president as to standards for the admission, discipline and expulsion of students.
- Approve schools and make recommendations to the Board for academic degree programs.

Fiscal:

- Review and approve the recommendations of the president pertaining to annual operating and capital budget requirements for forwarding to the Board.
- Review and approve charges for room and board and other fees except student activity fees.
- Review and approve all contracts and purchases negotiated or awarded by the president.

Grounds:

- Review and approve the recommendations of the president pertaining to policies and procedures governing the use of university facilities and property.
- Conduct an annual physical inspection of university facilities and make recommendations for maintenance and construction to the Board.

Other:

- Represent the university at official functions of the Commonwealth.
- Take such other action as may be necessary to effectuate these powers and duties.

Powers and Duties of University Presidents *(24 P.S. §20-2010-A)*

The “chief executive officer” of the university:

- Appoints employees, sets salaries and benefits, and establishes policies and procedures governing employment rights, promotion, dismissal, tenure, leaves of absence, grievances and salary—subject to any collective bargaining agreements and to policies of the Board.
- Develops/implements procedures for the administration of the university, including policies and procedures by which student organizations may be created and operated.
- Authorizes personnel to travel in accordance with regulations of the council of trustees.
- Employs or contracts for the necessary university services consistent with Board policy.

Educational:

- Develop/implement specific campus policies for instructional, research, and public service programs, as well as academic standards, in accordance with Board policies and after consultation with the council of trustees, faculty, and students.
- Establish procedures for the admission, discipline, and expulsion of students consistent with policies of the Board and council of trustees.
- Enter into contracts, in accordance with policies of the council of trustees, to enable students to engage in student teaching or other training in order to obtain experience in a particular field.

Fiscal:

- Set student activity fees and supervise the collection, retention, and expenditure of such fees (in cooperation with the student association).
- Waive, defer, and refund tuition fees and other charges and fees consistent with Board policy.
- Prepare the annual operating and capital budget for review and action by the council of trustees and subsequent submission to the chancellor.
- Determine the expenditures to be made for instructional, extracurricular, administrative, custodial, and maintenance services, equipment and supplies, and furniture therefore, as may be necessary for the effective management of the institution, provided that no such allotment shall exceed the total allocations of the institution.
- Within the limitations of the operating budget and other available funds, subject to Board policy and with approval of the council of trustees, negotiate and award contracts for equipment, services, and supplies.
- Accept grants and assistance from federal and state agencies, local governments or other political subdivisions, foundations, corporations, or any other source for any of the lawful purposes of the university.

Grounds:

- Establish procedures governing the use of university facilities and property in accordance with guidelines established by the council of trustees.

In General:

- Consistent with Board policy, to do and perform all of those other things necessary and required for the orderly operation of the university.
- Attend all meetings of the council of trustees; speak, but not vote, on all matters before the council.

Powers and Duties of Commission of Presidents

(24 P.S. §20-2007-A)

The Commission of Presidents of the System shall consist of the presidents of the several Institutions and shall:

- Annually select one (1) of its members as chairperson.
- Recommend policies for the institutions.
- Act in an advisory capacity to the chancellor and the governors.
- Meet quarterly and additionally at the call of its chairperson or the chancellor.