

MTSUBT Brief
SACSCOC Substantive Change:
Change in Governance Visit September 26-28, 2017

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Purpose: To determine MTSU's continued compliance with SACSCOC'S *Principles of Accreditation*.

- Committee will review MTSU's report and supporting documents.
- Committee will identify issues and topics for further exploration during on-site visit.
- Committee will meet with MTSUBT members, MTSU administrators, faculty, and students – individually and in groups.
- Committee may request additional documentation.

Committee Roster

Dr. Denise Trauth, President, Texas State University, will chair the committee.

MTSU submitted a report that included an overview, institutional summary, and a response with supporting documentation to a select number (21) of SACSCOC *Principles of Accreditation*.

SACSCOC Principles Terminology

- Core Requirement (CR)
 - Basic, broad-based, foundational requirements necessary for accreditation
 - Noncompliance = Sanction (warning or probation)
- Comprehensive Standard (CS)
 - Specific to the operations of an institution and represent good practice
 - Noncompliance = Monitoring (additional reporting)
- Federal Requirement (FR)
 - Required for participation in Title IV of the Higher Education Act
 - Noncompliance = No federal financial aid funding

MTSUBT members previously received the narrative report that MTSU submitted to SACSCOC. In that report, MTSU indicated compliance with all core requirements, comprehensive standards, and federal requirements.

Substantive Change in Governance Report submitted to SACSCOC August 17, 2017 is online:
<http://www.mtsu.edu/sacs/ChangeInGovernance2017.pdf>

User name: MTSU2015

Password: 14SaCs15

The SACSCOC Principles most applicable to Board operations are shown below. Relevant questions for consideration from the SACSCOC Resource Manual follow each Principle.

CR 2.2: Governing Board: The institution has a governing board of at least five members that is the legal body with specific authority over the institution. The board is an active policy-making body for the institution and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are adequate to provide a sound educational program. The board is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from it. Both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.

- How are governing board members and the presiding officer elected or appointed?
- What is the structure of the governing board and its committees?
- What evidence is there that the governing board controls the institution?
- What evidence is there that board members as a governing body actively focus on policy issues of the institution, CEO performance review, and overall mission?
- How often do the governing board members meet and is their agenda appropriate for their responsibilities?
- What evidence exists that the governing board ensures adequate financial resources?
- What evidence exists that the governing board is not controlled by a minority of members?
- What evidence exists that the governing board is free of contractual, employment, or personal or financial interests?
- Are the affiliations disclosed so that reviewers can determine conflict of interest?

CS 3.2.1: CEO Evaluation/Selection: The governing board of the institution is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer.

- How is the chief executive officer selected and/or appointed and by what body or legal authority?
- What are the board's criteria for determining an effective performance of the chief executive officer?
- How is the chief executive officer evaluated and what is the schedule?

CS 3.2.2.1: Governing Board Control over Institutional Mission: The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution's governance structure: the institution's mission.

- Are adequate definitions of legal authority and operating responsibility clearly stated in the rules and regulations, policy manuals and/or bylaws of the institution's governing board?
- What entity (or entities) regularly examines the mission of the institution?

CS 3.2.2.2: Governing Board Control over Fiscal Stability: The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution's governance structure: the fiscal stability of the institution.

- Are adequate definitions of legal authority and operating responsibility clearly stated in the rules and regulations, policy manuals and/or bylaws of the institution's governing board?

- What entity or entities regularly examine the financial stability of the institution and issue opinions regarding their findings?

CS 3.2.2.3: Governing Board Control over Institutional Policy: The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution's governance structure: institutional policy.

- Are adequate definitions of legal authority and operating responsibility clearly stated in the rules and regulations, policy manuals and/or bylaws of the institution's governing board?
- What entity or entities regularly examine institutional policy?

CS 3.2.3: Conflict of Interest: The governing board has a policy addressing conflict of interest for its members.

- What is the conflict of interest policy for governing board members?
- How are governing board members informed of its existence?
- How does the conflict of interest policy apply to individuals on the governing board as well as to the collective actions taken by the governing board as a corporate entity?
- How does the policy protect the integrity of the institution?

CS 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.

- To what extent and by what means are governing board members educated regarding these responsibilities?
- What safeguards protect the institution?
- How does the institution show that its governing board members are free from undue influences?

CS 3.2.5: Board Dismissal: The governing board has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.

- What is the policy that governs the removal of a governing board member from office?
- Who elects/appoints governing board members? Who can remove board members from office and by what process?
- How does the policy specifically address reasons for dismissal?
- How does the policy provide for a fair process for dismissal?

CS 3.2.6: Board/Administration Distinction: There is a clear and appropriate distinction, in writing and practice, between the policy-making functions of the governing board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.

- What evidence exists that the organizational structure reflects a distinction in lines of authority?
- What evidence exists that other documents, such as board Manuals, minutes, and administrative procedures Manuals, illustrate the distinction in practice?
- What evidence exists demonstrating that administrators/faculty administer policy?
- What is the institution's written policy on the roles and responsibilities of the governing board, administration, and faculty?
- How are written policies communicated to constituents?