

Number: II 009  
Subject: Board Committee Principles

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Revised:

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Policy Statement:

The Board of Trustees specifies the roles of committees and its relationship to them. It uses committees to facilitate effective and efficient governance. Committees do not do the work of the Board nor compromise the Board of Trustee integrity, authority and responsibility. Board of Trustee committees will be used sparingly and time limited and will be created to reinforce the wholeness of the board's job and to never interfere with delegation from the Board to Director.

Accordingly:

1. Board committees will work under a specified terms of reference and timelines so that the duties and mandate of the committee are clearly understood.
2. Committee terms of reference will be carefully stated in order to avoid conflicting with authority delegated to the CEO.
3. Board committees may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes.
4. Board committees may facilitate the use of resources, expert opinion and data information necessary to fully prepare the board on the topic before the committee.
5. Non-Board of Trustee Committees are committees that have been created and mandated by organizations, other than the Board of Trustees, where trustee representation has been requested. Board involvement provides opportunity for connecting with the community and bringing new information and understanding to the Board of Trustees. Involvement on Non-Board of Trustee Committees is subject to the following considerations:
  - a) availability of a trustee to participate
  - b) relevance of the committee work to the current work of the Board of Trustees
  - c) contribution that the Board and/or the individual trustee can bring to the committee
  - d) opportunity to foster on-going partnerships and community relationships
  - e) ability to raise the profile of the board
  - f) annual review of membership to ensure that involvement continues to be meaningful