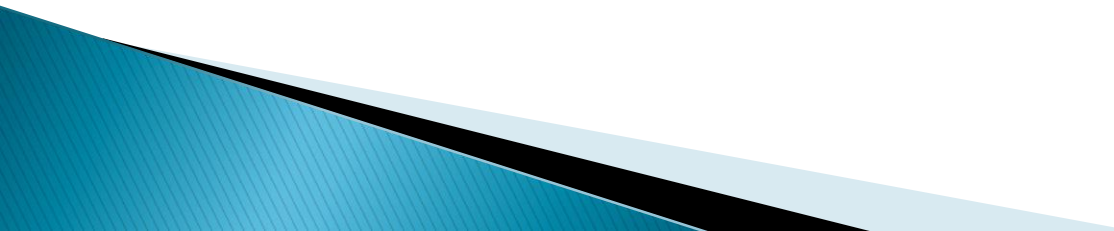


Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

AN OVERVIEW



GOALS OF WORKSHOP

- ▶ Overview of accreditation in general and of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission Colleges (SACSCOC) specifically
 - ▶ Understanding the requirements of each of the *Principles of Accreditation* and the role of the institution's board in the accreditation process
- 

TYPES OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

- ▶ National Agencies

Accredit institutions of higher education that have a single focus irrespective of location

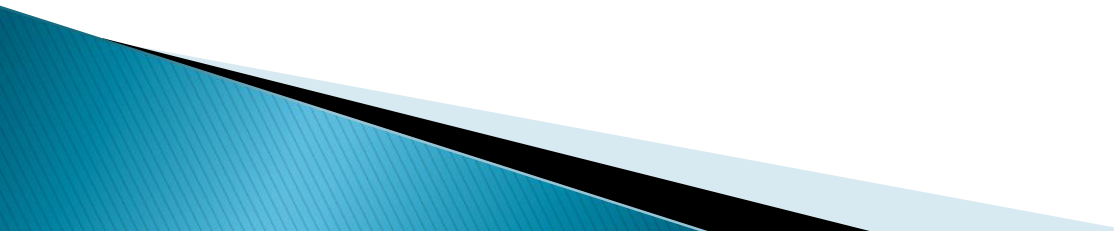
- ▶ Regional Agencies

Accredit all aspects of an institution of higher education in specific regions

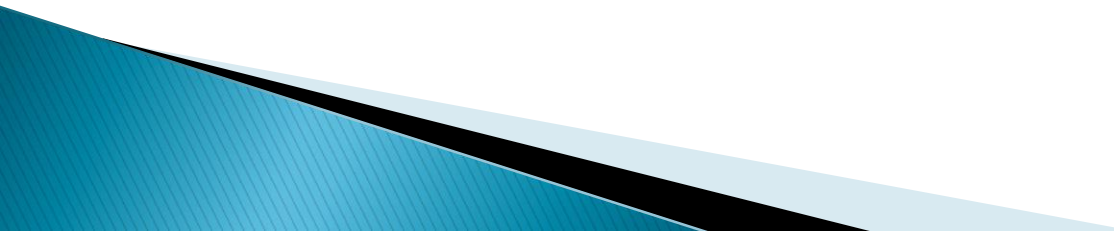
- ▶ Specialized or Professional Agencies

Accredit programs within institutions

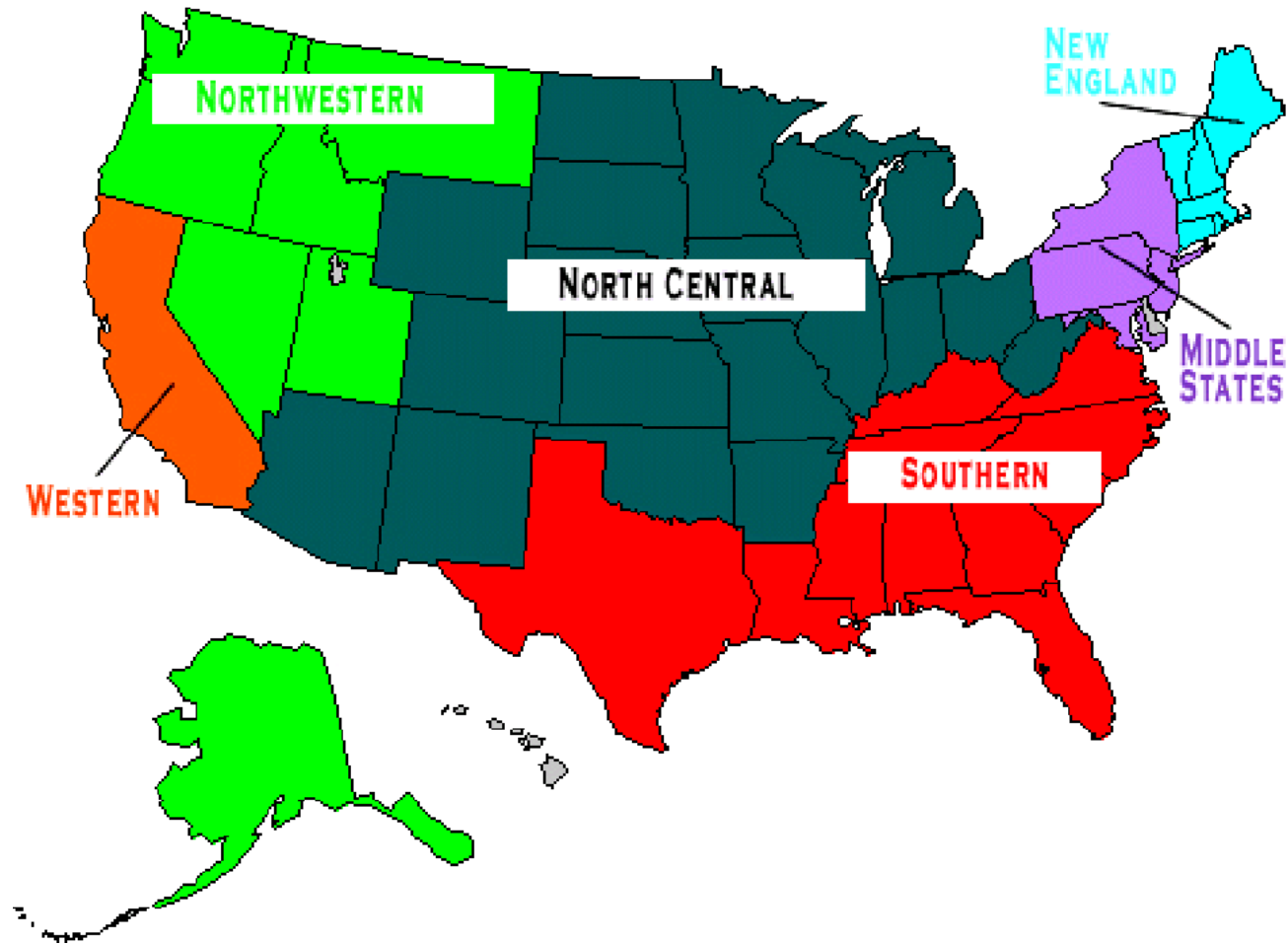
REGIONAL ACCREDITATION PURPOSES

- ▶ Improve Quality throughout the institution
 - ▶ Assure the public that institutions meet established standards
 - ▶ Serve as a “gate-keeper” for federal financial aid
- 

Characteristics of Regional Accreditation

- ▶ Comprehensive, Periodic Review
 - ▶ Focus on Institution–Wide Goals, Processes, Outcomes
 - ▶ Related to Institutional Purpose and Mission
 - ▶ Regional in Scope
 - ▶ Voluntary
 - ▶ Non–Governmental
 - ▶ Decentralized National System
 - ▶ Non–Profit
- 

SIX REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS



Number of Institutions By Region

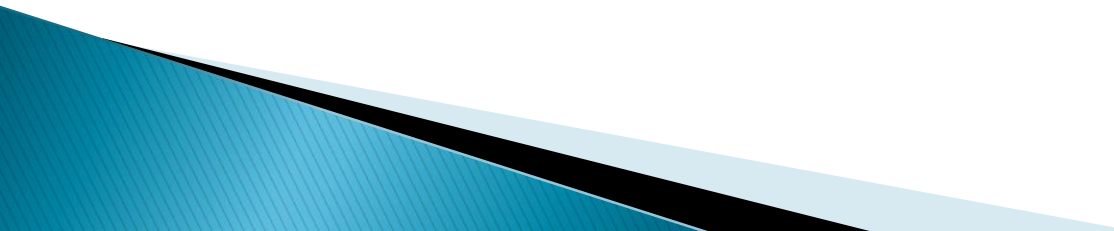
▶ SACSCOC	796
▶ North Central	998
▶ Middle States	523
▶ Western (Jr. & Sr.)	319
▶ New England	238
▶ Northwest	162

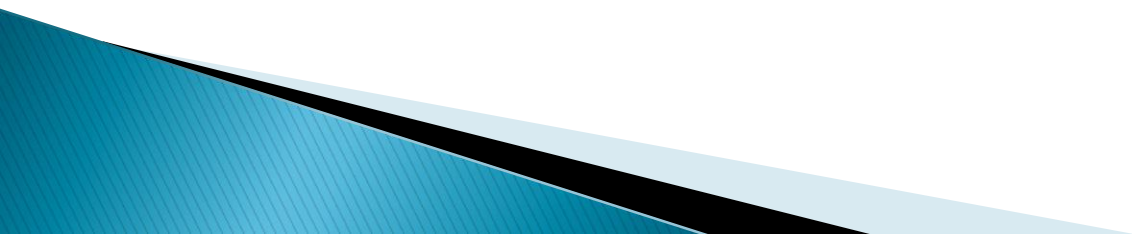
C-RAC

Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions

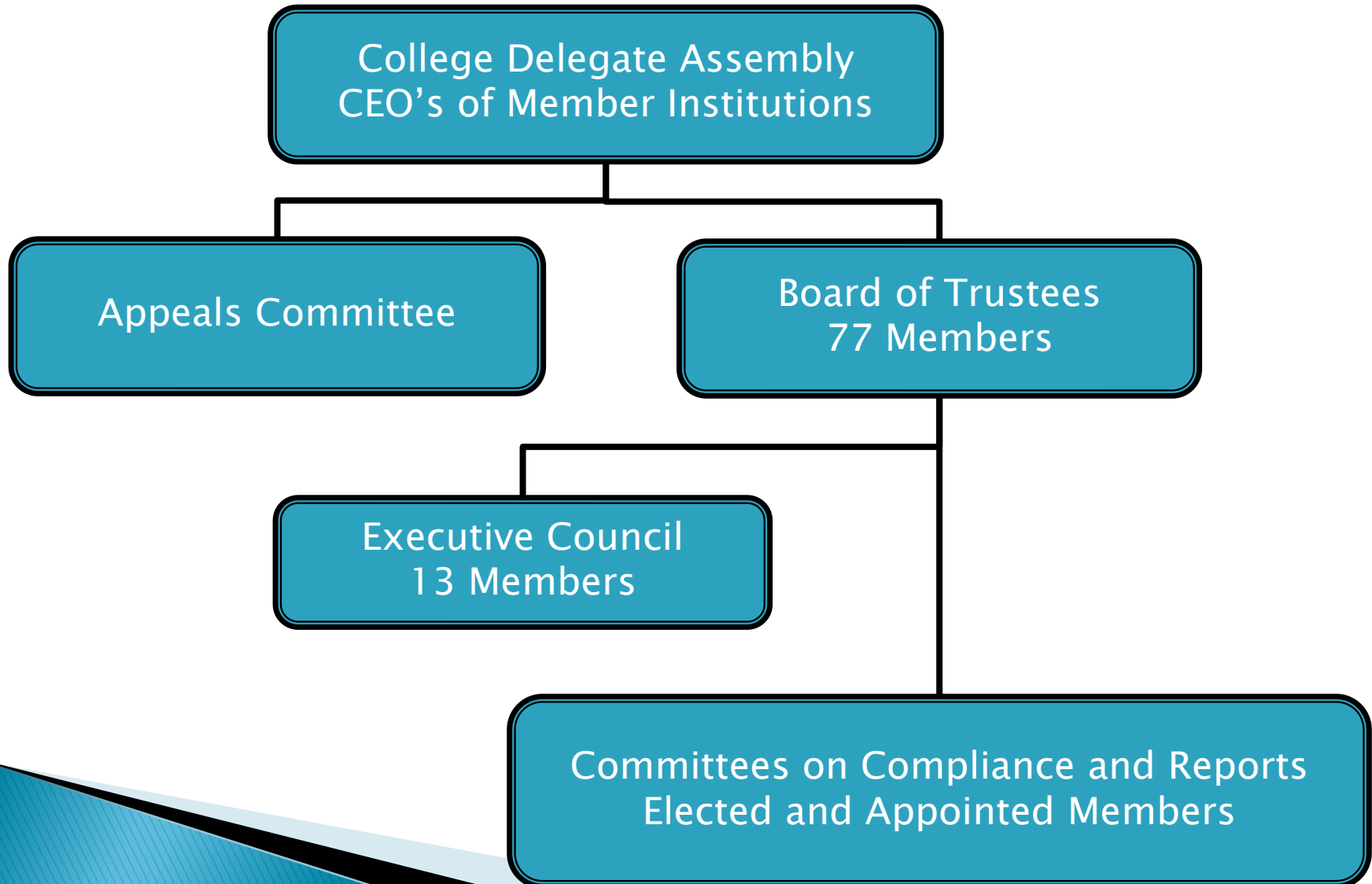
This is a group composed of the president or director of each of the regional accrediting associations.

Oversight of Commission Activities

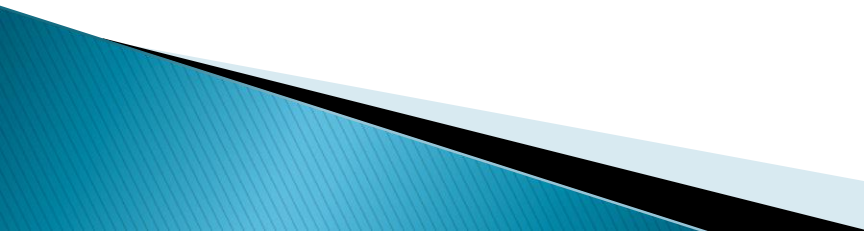
- ▶ Review by U.S. Department of Education based on recognition standards
 - ▶ Recommendation by DOE to National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) (Appointed group of educators and public members)
 - ▶ NACIQI makes recommendation to recognize or not recognize an accrediting agency to U.S. Secretary of Education
- 



Commission on Colleges Structure



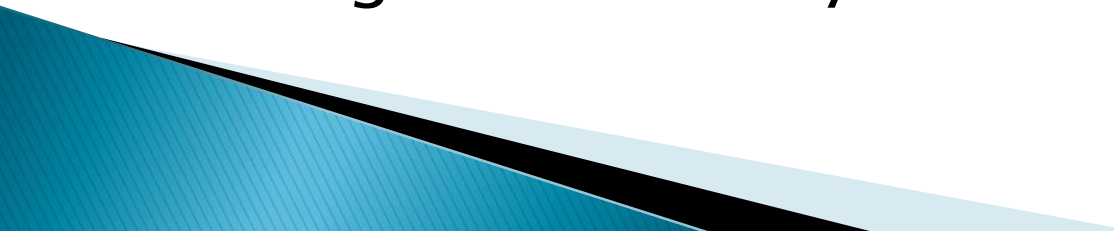
SACSCOC Board of Trustees

- ▶ 77 persons (called Trustees)
 - ▶ Three institutional representatives from each state (33)
 - ▶ One public member from each state (11)
 - ▶ One international member
 - ▶ Thirty-two at large representatives from member institutions (32)
 - ▶ They represent public and private institutions
 - ▶ They represent all levels of member institutions
 - ▶ Meet twice a year in June and in December
 - ▶ They may be presidents, other administrators, faculty from member institutions.
- 

Appeals Committee

Some decisions affecting an institution are appealable, e.g., withdrawal from membership. When an institution appeals, the Appeals Committee meets to hear the appeal.

Principles of Accreditation

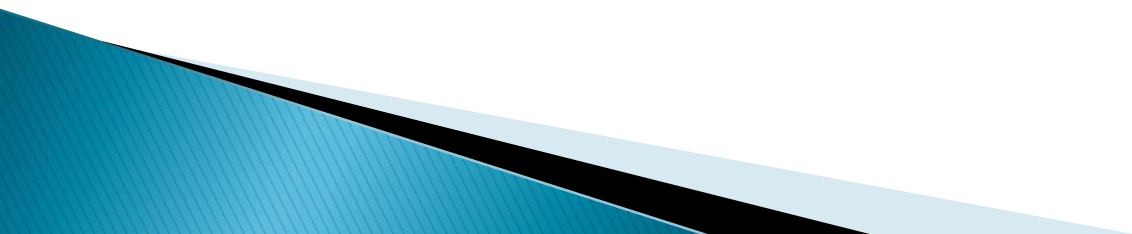
- ▶ The requirements and standards which institutions must meet to become members and remain members
 - ▶ Developed by committees or task forces consisting of representatives of member institutions
 - ▶ Can be changed only by vote of College Delegate Assembly
- 

Principles of Accreditation

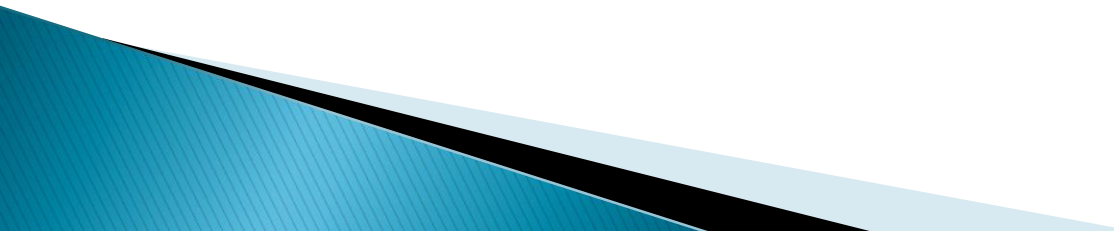
- ▶ Principle of Integrity
- ▶ Core Requirements (CR)
 - Governance, Administrative Structure, Mission, Curriculum, Learning Resources, Student Support Services, Financial and Physical Resources, Faculty, Evaluation and Planning, Quality Enhancement Plan
- ▶ Comprehensive Standards (CS)
 - Same as above but in further detail
- ▶ Federal Requirements (FR)
 - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies, student authentication, credit hour, state authorization

Reaffirmation Process

- ▶ Leadership Orientation
- ▶ Compliance Certification
- ▶ Off-Site Committee Review
- ▶ Focused Report
- ▶ On-Site Committee Review
 - QEP
 - Non-Compliance Issues
 - Selected Issues for US DOE
- ▶ C&R Committee Review
- ▶ Executive Council Review
- ▶ Board Approval



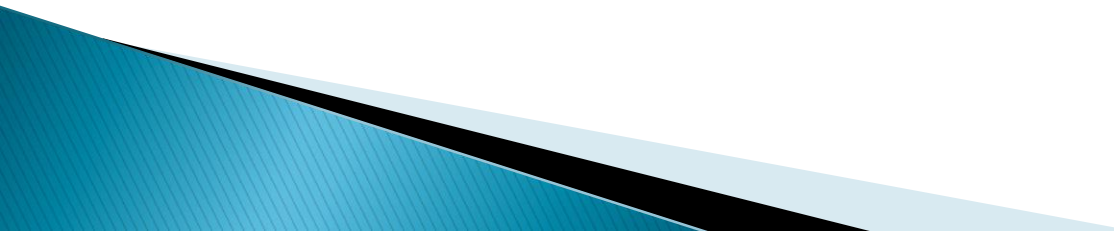
ROLES OF THE BOARD

- *Policy-making body*
 - *Hire, Evaluate and, when necessary, Fire the CEO*
 - *Fiduciary responsibility for the institution*
- 

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE

Complementary but separate duties

[Clear and appropriate distinction, in writing & in practice, between policy-making function of board & responsibility of administration & faculty to implement policy.] (CS 3.2.6)



BOARD STATUS/STRUCTURE

Is the legal body with authority over institution.

Minimum of five members.

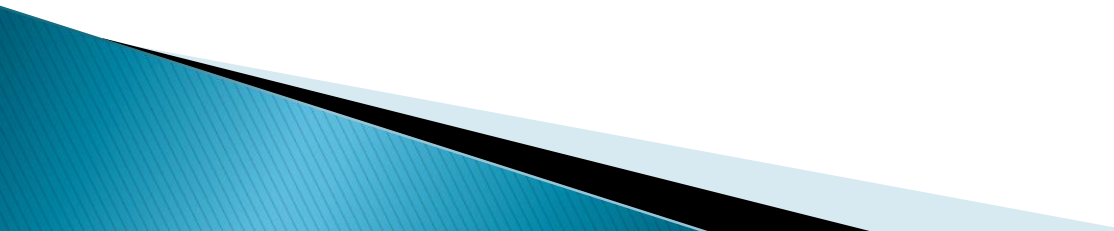
Not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations/interests separate from it. (CR 2.2)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Responsibility & authority of faculty

[Policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in governance and academic matters.]

(CR 2.2 & CS 3.7.5)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Academic freedom

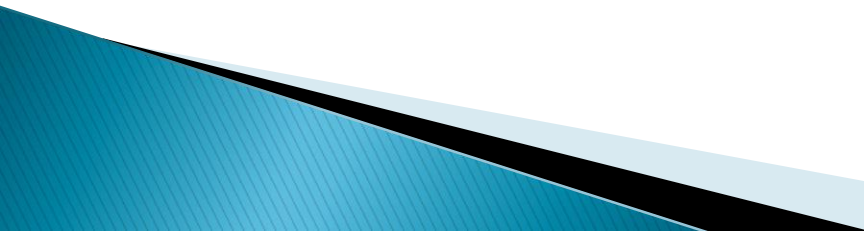
[Ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom.] (CS 3.7.4)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Protect institution from undue influence

[Maintain freedom from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence.]

(CS 3.2.4)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Conflict of interest

[Presiding officer of the board & a majority of the other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.] (CR 2.2)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Select and evaluate the CEO

[The governing board is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer.] (CS 3.2.1)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Board member dismissal

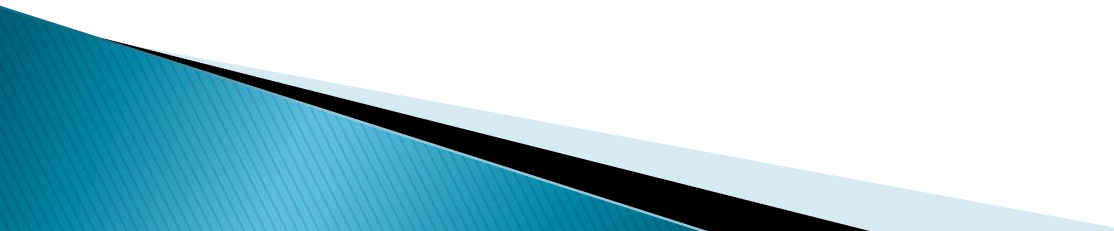
[Policy whereby board members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.] (CS 3.2.5)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Ensuring adequate financial resources and stability (CR 2.2 ; CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.1)

Provide appropriate financial statements (CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.3; FR 4.7)

Institutional Issues

- ▶ Student Success
 - Planning and Assessment
 - Remedial Education
 - Completion/Graduation Rates
 - Retention Rates
 - Program Review
 - Transfer of Credits
- 



SACSCOC Students Are Central to Success

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