

## **BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice**

*Reference: Accreditation Standard IV.B.1.a, e, & h*

The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Members of the Board are responsible to:

- Serve as a steward of the resources and facilities available to the District, and to be a part of the team which seeks to meet student needs, extend their opportunities and enhance the quality of education they are offered;
- Uphold the ethical and legal commitments and responsibilities of the District to the State, the residents of the District, the staff it employs, and the students it serves;
- Maintain an atmosphere in which controversial issues may be freely discussed and to uphold the honor and dignity of individuals. There will be confidentiality of all privileged information, including that shared in closed session. Closed sessions will be limited to those allowed by the Ralph M. Brown Act;
- Recognize that individual Board Members shall not make statements, which may indicate they are speaking for the entire Board. A Board Member has no legal authority as an individual
- Delegate authority to the Chancellor for the operation of the District, colleges and centers, and to limit Board action to determining policy;
- Not supervise, ask favors of, or otherwise involve herself/himself in the responsibilities of District employees, with the exception of the Chancellor. All concerns about college employees will be expressed by Board Members to the Chancellor, who will review such matters and report back to the Board;
- Relate to each employee of the college, faculty, staff and administrators with respect, kindness, and integrity;
- Maintain and enhance individual professional effectiveness and confidence through continuing education to improve skills and acquire new knowledge related to professional trusteeship.

### **Trustee Censure Policy**

1. **Statement of Purpose.** Censure is an official expression of disapproval passed by the Governing Board. A Board Member may be subject to a resolution of censure by the Governing Board should it be determined that trustee misconduct has occurred.

All Board Members are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior. To give guidance to individual members in conforming their conduct to minimum standards, the Board has adopted a Trustee Code of Ethics. In order to maintain public confidence in the Board, and in governance, the Board will be prepared to investigate the factual basis behind any charge or complaint of trustee misconduct.

2. **Censure Procedure.** If a complaint of trustee misconduct is submitted, the Board will first consider the complaint to determine whether further investigation is warranted. If the

Board does determine such further investigation or consideration is warranted, the complaint will be referred by the Board President for investigation and review to an *ad hoc* committee composed of three trustees not subject to the complaint. In a manner deemed appropriate by the committee, a thorough fact-finding process shall be initiated and completed within a reasonable period of time to determine the validity of the complaint. The committee shall be guided in its inquiry by the standards set forth in the *Trustee Code of Ethics*. (1997)

The trustee subject to the charge of misconduct shall not be precluded from presenting information to the committee.

The committee shall, within a reasonable period of time, make a report of its findings to the Governing Board for action.

Adopted: July 21, 2004