

### 3.2.4

#### **Governance and Administration: External influence**

The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies, and protects the institution from such influence.

#### **Judgment**

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

#### **Narrative**

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) is free from undue influence from any political, religious, or external bodies, and protects Tennessee Technological University (TTU) from undue external influence. Tennessee Board of Regents policy states that the Board will include representation from different congressional districts, geographical areas, political parties, racial groups, age groups, and genders, as well as alumni from different institutions of the system. The Board also includes a student and a current faculty member [1].

#### **Ethical Standards of the Board**

Members of the Board are subject to a Code of Ethics whose aim is "to establish ethical standards for members of the Board of Regents" [2]. TBR policy 1:02:03:00 states that "individual members of the Board enjoy equal rights with all other members: the right to vote, the right to participate fully in all considerations before the Board, the right to enter motions and to submit recommendations, and all rights and privileges afforded the Board by law and regulation when sitting in deliberative session" [3]. Further, "When participating in meetings of the Board or its duly constituted committees, members are responsible for . . . representing the entire System without regard for any congressional district or area of the State or for any individual institution within the State" [4]. Additionally, "upon announcement of any vote of a meeting of the Board or one of its duly constituted committees, a member holding a minority view may request his or her view be made a matter of record" [5].

Following appointment, board members attend a full day orientation that includes a meeting with the Chancellor, Academic Affairs, the Business Office, and the General Counsel that covers board member responsibilities, the code of Ethics, conflicts of interest and other such matters [6].





TTU further protects itself as an institution through TTU Policy 132 Conflict of Interest [7], TTU Policy 140 Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action [8], and TTU Policy 130 Internal Audit [9], in which TTU adopts TBR Policy 4:01:05:00 Internal Audit [10]. Each of these policies addresses factors that help prevent unwarranted intrusion by external forces.

For additional information on the role of TBR, see CR 2.2 and CS 3.2.3.

#### **Conclusion**

Policies including TBR 1:02:04:00 Selection and Terms of Board Members, TBR 1:02:03:20 Code of Ethics, TBR 1:02:03:00 Internal Audit, along with TTU Policies 132 Conflict of Interest, 140 Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, and 130 Internal Audit are intended to keep the governing board and TTU employees free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence. TTU is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4.

#### **Sources**

-  [01] Selection and Terms of Board Members
-  [02] Code of Ethics for Members of Tennessee Board of Regents
-  [03] Duties of Board Members\_Section I.A
-  [04] Duties of Board Members\_Section II.B
-  [05] Duties of Board Members\_Section III.A
-  [06] Email Communication with Mickey Sheen Manager of Paralegal Services\_TBR
-  [07] Policy 132 Conflict of Interest
-  [08] Policy 140 Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action
-  [09] Policy 130 Internal Audit
-  [10] TBR Policy 4\_01\_05\_00