

## 3.2.6

### **Governance and Administration: 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.

### **Judgment**

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

### **Narrative**

Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) § 49-8-101 [1] established a state university and community college system that includes Tennessee Technological University (TTU). The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) was given responsibility for "the government, management, and control of the state university and community college system" [2] of which TTU is a member. Duties for which the TBR is specifically empowered can be found in TBR policy. Policy decisions of the Board are distributed promptly to TBR institutions. The policy for communication of decisions can be found in TBR policy as well [3].

### **Board Policy and Authority**

The TBR "subscribes to a concept of strong presidencies in which the President is the Chief Executive Officer of the institution with broadly delegated responsibilities for all facets of campus management and operations" [2]. The Board has responsibility for the selection and employment of the institution's president and delegates to the presidents "such powers and duties as are necessary and appropriate for the efficient administration of their respective institutions and Centers and their programs" (TBR Policy 1:02:02:00 [1][C][7]) [4].

### **Responsibilities of the President and Executive Team**

TBR policy defines the duties of the president and mandates that he/she "shall be the executive head of the institution and all of its departments, and shall exercise such supervision and direction as will promote the efficient operation of the institution." Further, as executive head of the institution, the president is responsible to the Board through the chancellor for the administration and implementation of Board policy and for the "execution of all directives of the Board and of the Chancellor." TBR policy states that Presidents communicate to the Board and Chancellor operations of the institution through an annual report" [5].

The TTU website outlines the roles and responsibilities of the President and executive team [6]. The role of the administration and faculty relevant to the implementation and administration of policy is described in the following documents: TTU Policy 101 (Policy on Policies) [7]; TTU Policy 102 (University Committees) [8]; TTU Policy 203 (Faculty Roles and Responsibilities) [9]; Faculty Senate, Procedures [10]; Academic Council, Procedures [11]; and Administrative Council, Procedures [12].

For example, the development of a new program of study and curricular changes begin at the departmental level with proposed changes being approved initially by the faculty within the department in which the program of study is offered. Curriculum proposals then progress to the college level to be approved by a committee of faculty representing each academic area within the college. Once approved by college curriculum committees, proposals are considered by the University Curriculum Committee, which is composed of faculty and administrators representing each department and college on campus. After receiving approval from the University Curriculum

Committee, the change is reflected in the course catalog. If a curriculum change affects a graduate course or program of study, it must also be approved by the Graduate Studies Executive Committee, rather than the University Curriculum Committee.














University committees are composed of faculty and administrators representing a cross section of campus. Procedures for committee membership are maintained by the president's office. University committees report their decisions to either the Academic Council or the Administrative Council. The decisions of Academic and Administrative Councils are reported to the University Assembly.

## Conclusion

Tennessee Code 49-8-101 establishes the governance, management, and control of the Tennessee state college and university system. TBR Policy 1:02:02:00 identifies the duties of the Board [4].

TBR Policy 1:02:10:00 requires an annual report from institutions to TBR and from TBR to the Governor and the legislature [13]. The role of administrators and faculty in the administration and implementation of policy is outlined in several documents including the TTU Faculty Handbook. Thus, TTU is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.6.

## Sources

-  [01] Tennessee Code 49\_8\_101
-  [02] Board Purpose and Operations
-  [03] Campus Communication of Board Actions and Policies
-  [04] Duties of Board
-  [05] Duties of the Presidents and Directors
-  [06] Job Descriptions of President and Other Academic Officers
-  [07] TTU Policy 101
-  [08] TTU Policy 102
-  [09] TTU Policy 203
-  [10] Faculty Senate Procedures
-  [11] Academic Council Procedures
-  [12] Administrative Council Procedures
-  [13] TBR Annual Reports Policy 1\_02\_10\_00