BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY:
Responsibilities of the Board and Individual Regents

Subd. 1. Responsibilities of the Board of Regents.
Responsibilities of the Board of Regents (Board) include the following:

(a) Clarify the mission of the University of Minnesota (University) and approve programs necessary to fulfill that mission.
(b) Monitor and evaluate the performance of the institution in achieving its goals and fulfilling its mission.
(c) Appoint, monitor, advise, motivate, support, evaluate, and, if necessary or advisable, replace the president.
(d) Approve major policies, long-range plans, educational programs, and annual budgets, while clearly delegating administrative responsibilities.
(e) Accept fiduciary responsibility for the long-term welfare of the University.
(f) Ensure adequate resources - human, financial, physical- and effective management of those resources.
(g) Preserve institutional autonomy, recognizing that the preservation of autonomy requires accountability.
(h) Foster collaboration with other educational systems and institutions, consistent with the University's mission.
(i) Serve as a court of appeals when appropriate.
(j) Enhance the public image of the University.
(k) Regularly evaluate the Board’s performance and strive to improve it.
(l) Ensure that the University remains an equal opportunity institution.

Subd. 2. Individual Regents Responsibilities.
Responsibilities of individual members of the Board include the following:

(a) To support the mission of the University.
(b) To maintain loyalty to the entire institution rather than to any part of the University or constituency within it.
(c) To maintain the highest ethical standards, abiding by Board policies with respect to ethics and conflicts of interest.
(d) To seek to be fully informed about the University and its role in the state and in higher education and to be responsive to the changing environments that affect it.
(e) To speak forthrightly at Board meetings and to support Board decisions when determined.
(f) To understand that the Board’s role is policy making rather than involvement in administration or management.

(g) To strengthen and sustain the president while being an active, energetic, and probing Board member who exercises critical judgment on policy matters.

(h) To communicate promptly to the president any significant concern or complaint for administrative disposition.

(i) To defend the autonomy and independence of the University.

(j) To represent all the people of Minnesota and no particular interest, community, or constituency.

(k) To enhance the public image of the University and the Board.

(l) To recognize that authority rests only with the Board as a whole and not in its individual members.

(m) To recognize that the president is the primary spokesperson for the University, and the chair of the Board is the only other person authorized to speak for the Board.

(n) To foster openness and trust among members of the Board, the administration, the faculty, the students, state government, and the public.

(o) To maintain respect for the opinions of Board colleagues and a proper restraint in criticism of colleagues and officers.

(p) To recognize that no Board member shall make any request or demand for action that violates the written policies, rules, or regulations of the Board or the University.

---

REVISION HISTORY

** Adopted: February 10, 1989  
** Amended: October 10, 2003

Board of Regents Policy: Responsibilities of the Board of Regents  
Category: Board Operations

Last Amended: October 10, 2003  
Page 2 of 2