



# Governance & Policy Committee

September 2022

September 9, 2022

8:00 a.m.

Boardroom, McNamara Alumni Center

## GOV - SEP 2022

### 1. 2022-23 Committee Work Plan

Docket Item Summary - 3

2022-23 Committee Work Plan - 4

### 2. Overview of Board Public Engagement

Docket Item Summary - 6

Presentation Materials - 7

### 3. Information Items

Docket Item Summary - 25



# BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

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**Governance & Policy**

**September 9, 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM:** 2022-23 Committee Work Plan

**Review**                       **Review + Action**                       **Action**                       **Discussion**

*This is a report required by Board policy.*

**PRESENTERS:** Regent Kodi J. Verhalen  
Brian R. Steeves, Executive Director & Corporate Secretary

## **PURPOSE & KEY POINTS**

The purpose of this item is to review and discuss the 2022-23 committee work plan.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Board of Regents Policy: *Board Operations and Agenda Guidelines* describes the role of the Governance & Policy Committee as follows:

The Governance & Policy Committee (GOV) oversees and makes recommendations to the Board related to policy and processes that seek to ensure the integrity and high performance of the Board. The committee supports effective governance by guiding the Board to: articulate a clear vision for the University and its major components; clarify reserved and delegated authorities; establish institutional benchmarks and performance measures; and thoughtfully considers risks that may impact the performance of the institution.

Specifically, this committee recommends to the Board:

- amendments to the Bylaws and changes to the structure and function of the Board;
- amendments to Board policies not routed through one of the other standing committees; and
- consideration of other University policy matters referred to the committee by the Board chair.

This committee provides oversight to:

- evaluate the effectiveness of the Board through periodic self-assessment;
- ensure that Regents are fully oriented and receive ongoing education; and
- identify best practices in governance for possible implementation.

**Governance & Policy Committee  
2022-23 Work Plan**

| Date           | Topics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <b>2022</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| September 8-9  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2022-23 Committee Work Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Overview of Board Public Engagement</b><br/>The committee will receive an overview of the Board’s current public engagement work. The item outline ways the public can currently engage with the Board’s work, including a review of the Board’s website, YouTube analytics, and peer data.</li> <li>• <b>Information Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Completed comprehensive review: <i>Board Operations and Agenda Guidelines</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                          |
| October 13-14  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion of Board Public Engagement</b><br/>This item builds on the September overview. The committee will engage in a discussion of the types of public engagement that the Board wishes to continue or add. It will include a review of the resolution related to public comment.</li> <li>• <b>Board Input into the Regent Selection Process</b><br/>Review and discuss the Selection Criteria used by the Regent Candidate Advisory Committee (RCAC) during the 2021 election cycle. Input from the committee will be shared with RCAC for the 2023 election cycle.</li> </ul> |
| December 15-16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consideration of Potential Changes to Board Public Engagement – Review</b><br/>The committee will review any potential changes to Board public engagement based on the September and October discussions.</li> <li>• <b>Board of Regents Policy: <i>Individual Conflicts of Interest</i> – Review</b><br/>The committee will review proposed amendments resulting from a comprehensive review of the policy.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>2023</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| February 9-10  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board of Regents Policy: <i>Individual Conflicts of Interest</i> – Action</b></li> <li>• <b>Board of Regents Policy: <i>Namings and Renamings: Gift Definition Clarification</i> – Review</b><br/>The committee will review proposed off-cycle amendments that seek to clarify the definition of gift used in the policy. This issue was identified when the Board last amended the policy in 2022.</li> <li>• <b>Consideration of Potential Changes to Board Public Engagement – Action</b></li> </ul>                                                                              |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p>June 8-9</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board of Regents Policy: <i>Namings and Renamings</i> – Gift Definition Clarification – Action</b></li> <li>• <b>Overview of Board of Regents Policy: <i>Reservation and Delegation of Authority</i></b><br/>       During the 2023-24 academic year, Board of Regents Policy: <i>Reservation and Delegation of Authority</i> will be up for comprehensive review. This item will provide an overview of the policy including how it is structured, the types of authorities defined within it, and the current thresholds. Additional conversations will be held in 2023-24 to seek committee input on the various approval thresholds contained within the policy.</li> <li>• <b>Board of Regents Policy: <i>Code of Conduct for Members of the Board of Regents</i> – Annual Review</b></li> <li>• <b>University Policy Overview &amp; 2023 Board Policy Report</b><br/>       The committee will engage with an overview of the University policy structure. The item will also discuss the 2023 Board Policy Report. The report includes two sections – a summary of policy work performed over the current year, and the upcoming year’s policy work plan.</li> </ul> |
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# BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

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**Governance & Policy**

**September 9, 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM:** Overview of Board Public Engagement

**Review**

**Review + Action**

**Action**

**Discussion**

*This is a report required by Board policy.*

**PRESENTERS:** Brian Steeves, Executive Director & Corporate Secretary  
Maggie Flaten, Communications & Engagement Manager

## **PURPOSE & KEY POINTS**

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of how the Board and the public engage with one another. This is the first in a series of discussions on how Minnesotans and the broad University community access the Board's work, and how the Board receives input from them. Specifically, the item will address:

- Why public engagement matters.
- The Board's legal obligations as a public body.
- How University shared governance and public consultation provides input to enrich the Board's decision making.
- The Board's current engagement practices, including direct contact with Regents, public forums, campus visits, and full digital access to meetings and materials.
- Peer comparisons.
- What else the Board would like to know about current or potential engagement practices.

This discussion in September will shape future committee discussions about how the Board approaches public engagement, and how the Office of the Board of Regents can support the Board in this work.

# Board Public Engagement

Brian Steeves

Executive Director & Corporate Secretary

Maggie Flaten

Communications & Engagement Manager

September 9, 2022



# Trustee vs. Representative

## *Trustee*

- Longer-term vision
- Holds in trust on behalf of others
- Acts in best interest of institution

## *Representative*

- Shorter-term responsiveness
- Carries voices of others into debate
- Acts as advocate



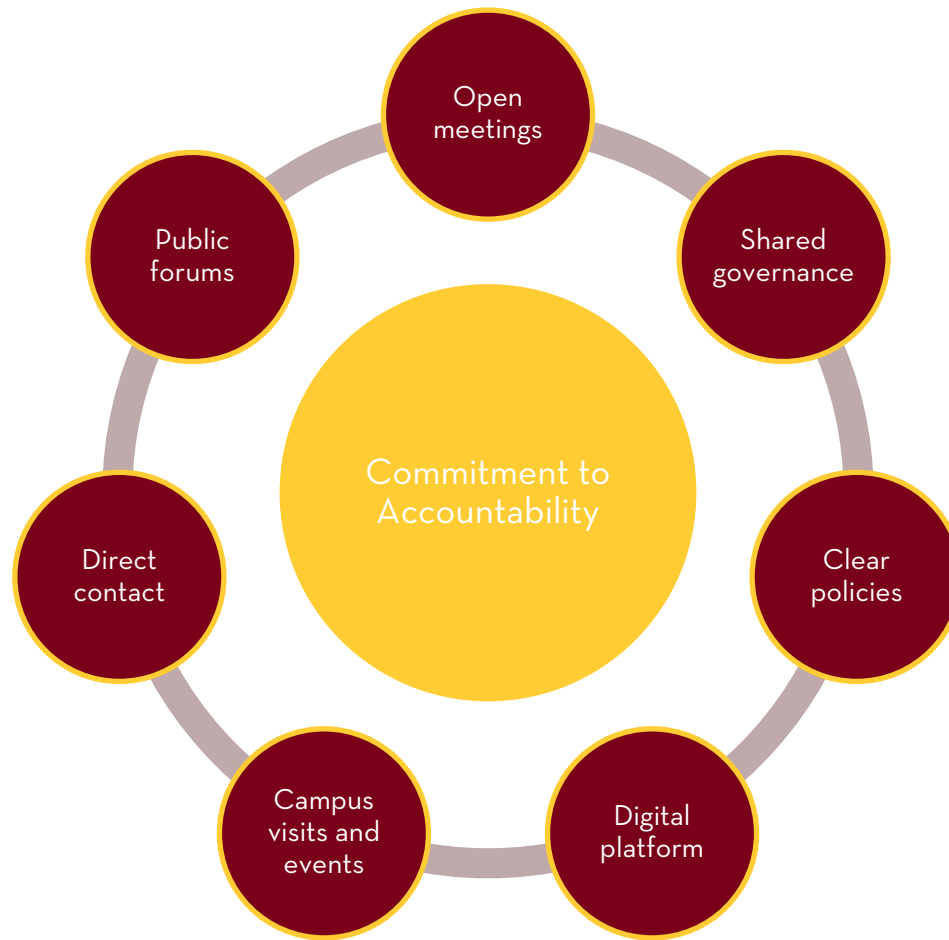


# Commitment to Accountability

*[B]oard accountability has a public dimension to it. Boards need to behave in ways that make sure that **the public trusts them** and they are doing their **collective best to move the institution or state system forward**. Higher education's stakeholders are a varied group, including policy makers, alumni, students, staff and faculty, and for public universities, the citizens of the state. And the expectations of these different constituencies may differ greatly from each other.*

Cathy Trower and Peter Eckel "Making Boards Accountable for Themselves", 2016





# Public Transparency and “Engagement”

- The Board engages the University community and public through:
  - transparently sharing Board decisions and discussions
  - collecting input and consulting on matters before the Board



# Open Meeting Law Requirements

- Provide notice of meetings
- Open meetings to the public
- Keep a record of actions taken by the Board (minutes)
- Make relevant materials (i.e., agendas and dockets) available to the public



# Shared Governance

- Provides opportunities for diverse voices of the University community to participate in discussions and consult on key issues facing the University.
  - University Senate - considered one of the strongest in the nation
  - Student Representatives - charged with bringing the student voice to the Board
  - Board policy review process - significant consultation across University community



# Going Beyond the Basics

- Live stream and video recording of all Board and committee meetings.
- All docket materials on website in advance and available in perpetuity.
- Detailed press releases
  - One week before meeting, and right after the meeting



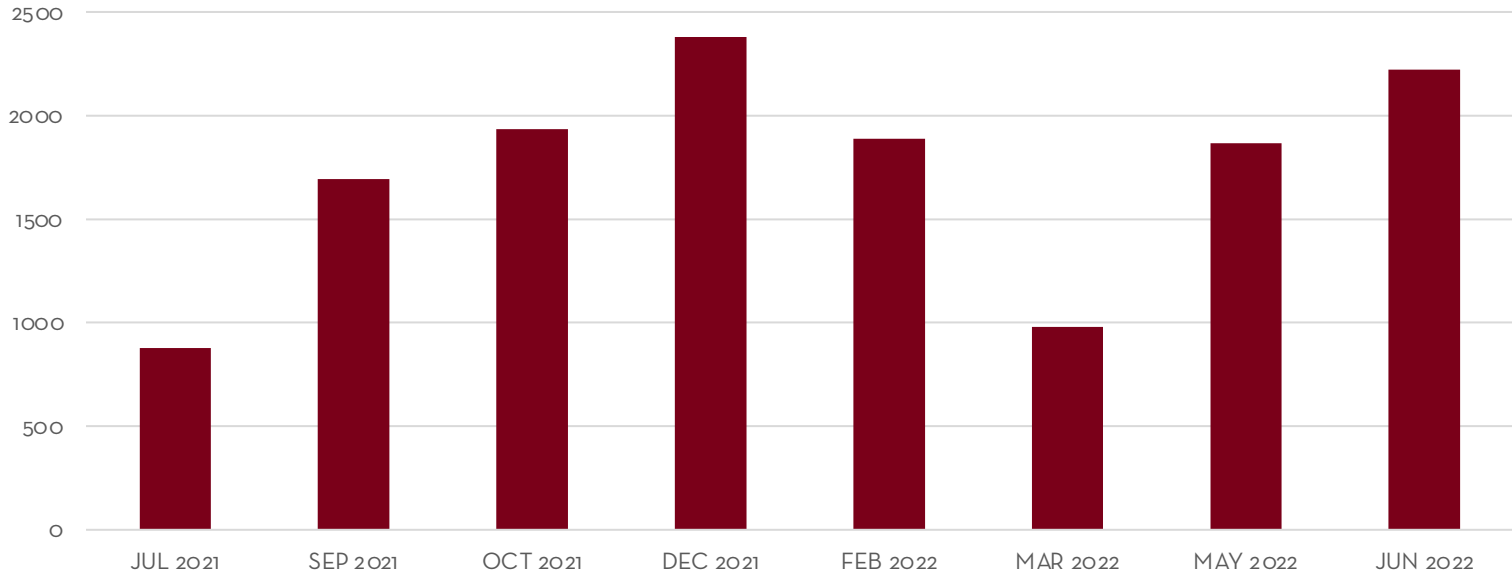
# Going Beyond the Basics

- System campus meetings
- Regent campus visits
- Regents at University and community events
  - About 35 per year requested through OBR
  - Many others that Regents arrange on their own
- Other events and activities



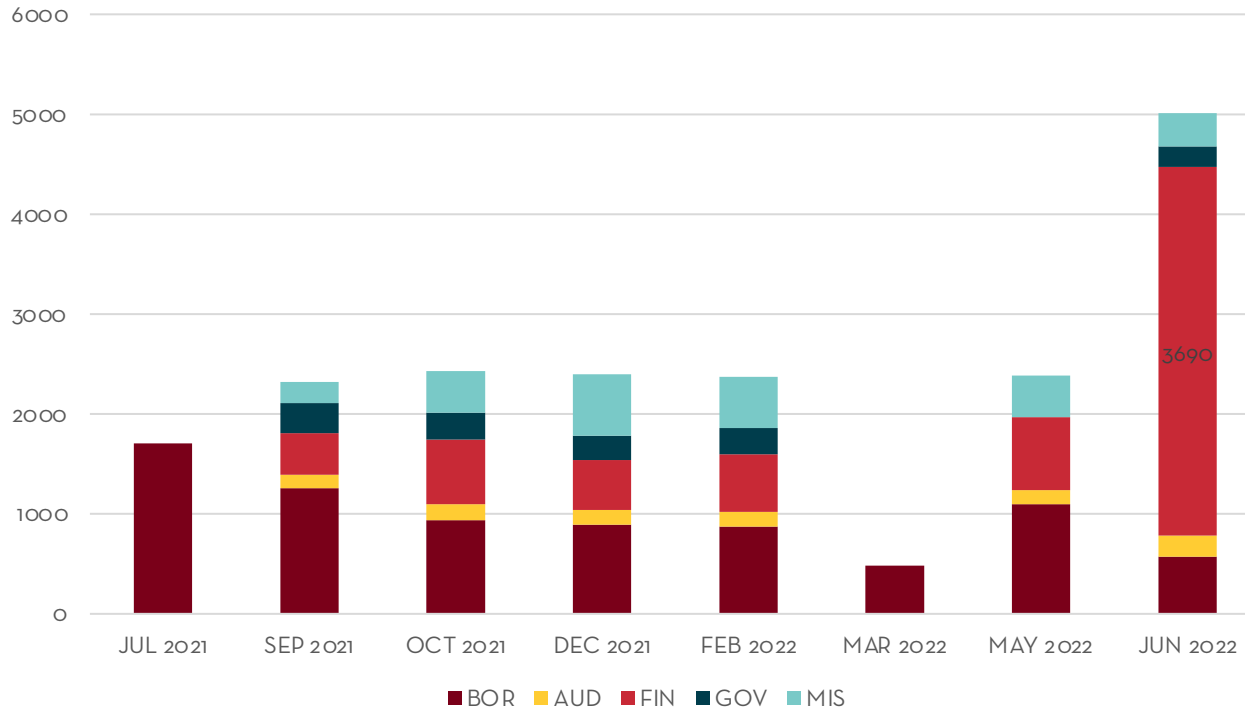
# Engagement with Meeting Materials

Site Visits (meeting materials pages)





# Engagement with Meetings



# How Regents Receive Input

- Individual emails
  - All Regent email addresses are publicly available and go directly to the Regent
- Shared governance
- Website contact form
- Casual interaction with the University community



# Public Forum Opportunities

- Required in statute or policy
  - Traffic ordinances
  - Body-worn cameras
- Annual Operating Budget
  - Traditional in-person public forum (15 speakers)
  - Written comment opportunity (60+ written comments, on average); comments shared publicly via docket
  - Widely promoted to the University community



# Request to Address the Board

- Board's *Bylaws*:
  - “A request to appear before a meeting of the Board of Regents or its standing or special committees shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, in advance of the meeting. The Chair shall rule on all requests. If the request is to appear before a committee, the Chair may also consult with the Committee Chair.”



# Peer Comparisons: Public Comment Opportunities

## Standing agenda item for regular meetings

| None                                                                                                                | Request/approval                                                                                                | Advance sign-up/approval                               | Advance sign-up                                                                                                       | Open                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indiana</li><li>• Penn State</li><li>• Purdue</li><li>• Wisconsin</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illinois</li><li>• <b>Minnesota</b></li><li>• Minnesota State</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Iowa</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michigan</li><li>• Michigan State</li><li>• Nebraska</li><li>• UCLA</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maryland</li></ul> |



# Coming in October: The Public Engagement Question

*As trustees, do you have enough  
public engagement in your decision making  
on behalf of the institution?*



# Today's Discussion

- Are there any questions about the material presented today?
- What additional information would be helpful as you prepare for your October discussion?





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*This is a report required by Board policy.*

**PRESENTERS:** Brian R. Steeves, Executive Director & Corporate Secretary

## **PURPOSE & KEY POINTS**

### **Completed Comprehensive Review of Board Policy**

The purpose of this item is to inform the committee that comprehensive review of the following Board policy is complete and the policy implementer recommends that no changes be made at this time:

- [Board of Regents Policy: Board Operations and Agenda Guidelines](#)

The policy can be accessed using the above hyperlinks.

If there are items that the committee would like addressed, those will be recorded and referred back to the policy implementer. If the committee raises no additional items, the comprehensive review process will be complete, and the date of last comprehensive review will be noted within the policy. The president and policy implementers have the ability to recommend changes outside of the comprehensive review process as needed (e.g., changes resulting from the implementation of the Systemwide Strategic Plan).