



## **WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09 BOARD POLICY ON SELF-ASSESSMENT**

**Passed by the Western Washington University Board of Trustees on October 14, 2022**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to formalize the intent and process for Board of Trustees' periodic self-assessment review. The self-assessment process enables the Board to demonstrate that the Board and its individual members are carrying out their roles and responsibilities in an effective manner and to identify strengths and potential areas for improvement in the Board's functioning. The self-assessment process also satisfies the Board's responsibility to be accountable to the larger public interest and public trust and to demonstrate compliance with any external reporting requirements, such as University's accreditors which expect governing boards to define and regularly evaluate their responsibilities and expectations.

#### **Board Practices and Procedures for Self-Assessment**

- **Board Roles and Responsibilities.** All Board members will participate in the self-assessment process as described herein. The process will be led by the Board Chair who will collaborate with the Board's Executive and Governance Committee to ensure its effective and timely execution.
- **Frequency.** The Board shall conduct a self-assessment at least once every two years.
- **Goals and Objectives:** The intent of the self-assessment process is to:
  - Ensure that trustees have a clear and common understanding of Board responsibilities.
  - Clarify mutual expectations among Board members.
  - Strengthen Board performance.
  - Strengthen relationships among Board members and with the University President.
- **Process:** The Board self-assessment process will include the following elements:

- A confidential survey of Board members will be used to solicit feedback on relevant dimensions of Board work and performance. The survey will be conducted via a Board-approved self-assessment instrument. Individual responses will be reported in the aggregate and without attribution.
- At its discretion, the Board may use an external consultant or facilitator, who may supplement the survey with additional methods of assessment.
- The results of the board self-assessment review shall be presented to and discussed by the Board at one of the Board's two work sessions. Board members shall participate in improving and strengthening the Board's governance processes and its role in advancing University's priorities.
- The Secretary to the Board will work with the Board Chair to implement an assessment process that underscores confidentiality and integrity.