



WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES STATEMENT OF VALUES AND MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Role of the Board

The Board of Trustees acts as fiduciary to the University and holds it in trust for the long-term benefit of the public. The Board of Trustees is a deliberative body, whose members represent the interests of the public and the entire university, not any of its separate parts.

Statement of Values

As appointees of the Governor of the State of Washington, the Trustees recognize the public's high professional and ethical standards for those in public office. As such, Trustees serve to the highest of ethical principles, place the public's interest above any personal interest, operate in a way that is transparent and responsive, and work to ensure that state resources are efficiently used for the public's purposes.

The Board of Trustees is committed to advancing access to transformational higher education for the people of the State of Washington, justice and equity in university policies and practices, and supporting an inclusive and welcoming campus environment that celebrates the dignity and value of all students, faculty, and staff.

Members of the Board of Trustees individually and collectively advance a culture of respect, trust, and collaboration in which we are open to learning, actively expressing our ideas, engaging in the work of the Board, and accountable for delivering on our commitments. The Board seeks to model the behavior it expects from all University constituents.

Trustee Expectations

Make your service on Western's Board a priority among your volunteer activities and commit to being authentically engaged in the work of the Board and the mission of the University

- Commit to attending and thoroughly preparing for all Board and committee meetings.
- Expect to be asked to serve in leadership roles on the Board and its committees.
- Commit to continuously learning about the University's history, culture, values, mission, programs, policies, practices, and shared governance.
- Be engaged in the life and activities of the University and work to advance the University's values and culture.

- Be an ambassador for the University in your local community and within your sphere of influence.
- Contribute to the University's fund development program.

Do your part to ensure that the Board meets its formal and fiduciary responsibilities at the highest level of accountability

- Foster and protect the integrity of the University's academic mission and values and hold one another and the Board's partners in shared governance to the highest ethical standards.
- Foster the general welfare of the University and its diverse constituencies.
- Be a steward of the University's name and reputation.
- Avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

Consciously strive to establish and maintain a constructive, interdependent partnership between the Board and the President, and Western's commitment to shared governance

- Focus on being a fiduciary, driving institutional strategy, and monitoring institutional outcomes by supporting the clear distinction between these high-level, policy-setting functions of the Board and the responsibility of the administration, faculty, and staff to administer and implement these policies.
- Embrace the principle that only the full Board can exercise authority as the ultimate governing body of the University.
- Respect the institution's commitment to shared governance and functional process by communicating and interacting with administrative personnel, faculty, students, and other constituencies in a way that is appropriate to the high-level, fiduciary role of the Board.

Foster harmonious relationships within the Board of Trustees and the University community

- Contribute to an atmosphere of trust and respect in which Board members can be authentic, honest, and accountable.
- Appreciate and leverage the collective strengths of the Board by respecting the rights and privileges of each member and facilitating their full participation in the deliberations and processes of the Board.
- Demonstrate respect for and civility toward all University representatives and constituents in the work of the Board.

Participate and communicate openly, honestly, and constructively

- Come to meetings prepared to participate constructively in the deliberations of the Board by asking pertinent and constructive questions, and by contributing your best counsel.
- Be a strong advocate for, and interpreter of, the University to its many public constituencies.
- Act and speak as one Board and not as individual Trustees.