



## Mission, Goals, & Board Operations

### *Board of Trustees Policy*

<b>SUBJECT:</b>  College Governance/Shared Governance	<b>NUMBER:</b>  1.4
	<b>DATE:</b>  April 18, 2022
	<b>SUPERSEDES:</b>  March 20, 2017

### *Purpose*

Ensuring all stakeholders understand the governance structure of an organization is extremely important for the continued success of SUNY Schenectady. This policy identifies not only the governing body of the College, but how the College shares in the governance process. Shared governance is a fundamental aspect of SUNY Schenectady achieves its mission and goals in a manner that is effective, efficient, and beneficial to the College and our students. Each institutional constituency has separate but complementary roles and responsibilities, and shared governance engages these institutional constituencies to offer informed and timely input on College policy and decision-making. SUNY Schenectady has a strong and proven commitment to shared governance in institutional practice that is structured on relevant SUNY and Faculty Council of Community College statements and policies.

## ***Policy***

SUNY Schenectady is governed by a ten member Board of Trustees. Five trustees are selected by the Schenectady County Legislature, four by the Governor of New York, and one is elected by the SUNY Schenectady student body each year. The Board holds a regular meeting each month at the College.

The College President is appointed by SUNY Schenectady Board of Trustees, with the approval of the SUNY Chancellor and SUNY Board of Trustees.

The President is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who reports directly to the Chairperson of the College Board of Trustees and whose governing authority is stipulated in section 604.3 (Responsibilities and Duties of the Presidency) of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York, Title 8 Education, Vol. B.

Report is maintained with the Sponsor through the County Executive and Committee Chairpersons/Members of the Schenectady County Legislature.

Three key governance units advise the President: President's Executive Council, Academic Senate, and the Student Government Association.

SUNY Schenectady recognizes four (4) institutional constituencies within this shared governance framework:

### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees structure supports the organization of the College and can carry out its scope of its policy and governance responsibilities as outlined within New York State Education Law Article 126. This includes, but is not limited to, adopting curriculum; preparing a budget; acquiring property; protecting, preserving and improving this property; entering into contracts; appointing and evaluating a President; appointing officers and other College hires upon recommendation of the President. Within the College governance, the Board of Trustees is the ultimate College body responsible for reviewing and approving College policies.

### Administration

The Administrative structure of SUNY Schenectady provides an organization within which it can administer the affairs of the College within the bylaws, resolutions, and policies of the Board of Trustees. The President serves as the College's CEO with full authority to administer this scope of duties and the responsibility to provide leadership for achieving the College's long-range goals and short-term objective in support of the College's mission.

### Faculty

The purpose of the Academic Senate of SUNY Schenectady is to serve as a deliberative body providing the College's professionals with a voice in shared governance. The Academic Senate complies with Article 126 of the New York State Education Law and Part 605 of New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations, Title 8, Education Department, and is consistent with Standard 7 of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, "Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation, Thirteenth Edition." The purpose of the

Academic Senate is to:

- Participate significantly in the formulation of policies relating to student health, scholarship, standards of admission, attendance and discharge of students, curriculum and other study programs, the granting of degrees, student activities, and student discipline. (8YCRR 605.1)
- Present recommendations to the President of the College regarding the instructional budget, appointments, reappointments, tenure, special salary adjustments, promotions, sabbaticals, and leaves of absences of members of the professional staff. (8NYCCRR 605.1)
- Provide a forum for discussions of academic, administrative, faculty, and student-related issues.
- Create and maintain an environment of academic freedom and intellectual integrity.
- Foster reciprocal accountability and responsibility among all participants in institutional governance.

### Students

The Student Government Association (SGA) plays a strong role within the governance structure of the organization and represent the interests, further the social and personal growth, and promote the general welfare of the members of the student body. The SGA can develop and recommend policies and guidelines in areas impacting student life.

Recommendations from the SGA shall pass through its President to the Administration (specifically through the Vice President for Academic s Affairs who will in return present it to the President.

*TMs policy addresses the role of each party within institutional governance. It recognizes that certain areas of authority within college governance and policy are set by state law, Board By-Laws, or negotiated labor contracts, as such they fall outside this policy.*