



Board of Trustees Roles and Responsibilities

To be invited to serve on a board of trustees or regents is the highest honor a college or university can bestow on an individual. Such an invitation signifies that an individual has made or is capable of making a contribution to public welfare through volunteer service in the crucial area of higher education.

—from *The Commitment of Trusteeship*,
published by The Association of Governing Board
of Universities and Colleges

[Note: The material below is quoted extensively from various publications from AGB.]

All voting members of the Board of Trustees shall have and may exercise the following powers on behalf of the College:

- Approve (determine, reaffirm, or change) the College's purposes and mission after consultation with appropriate internal and external constituencies.
- Approve and periodically review the appropriateness and consequences of all major institutional policies of the College.
- Appoint, support, and assess the president, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the College. Also, appoint and elect the other Officers of the College, and establish and approve the terms and conditions of employment of the president and of other selected College officials in consultation with the President.
- Approve and authorize the granting of tenure to faculty, and review and approve procedures regarding appointment, promotion, tenure, and dismissal of faculty members.
- Approve and authorize earned and honorary degrees upon recommendations of the faculty.

- Ensure periodic good planning by College management and faculty, participate in the process, assess the quality of the outcomes, and monitor progress against goals.
- Approve and monitor the annual budget of the College, protect financial and capital assets, ensure responsible and prudent investment of funds, and ensure a competent and comprehensive audit process. This includes authorizing: the purchase, management and sale of land, buildings, major equipment, securities, or other financial instruments for use of the College; the construction of new buildings and major renovations of existing buildings; incurring of debts by the College and the securing of debts by mortgage and pledge of real and personal property, tangible and intangible; changes in tuition and fees of the College; and officers or agents of the College to accept gifts and bequests on behalf of the College.
- Exercise other powers, including the power to act as a trustee, executor, or other fiduciary as permitted by California law, as are necessary or convenient to the accomplishment of the College's educational purposes or as are permitted or provided by the College's Articles of Incorporation.
- Ensure adequate resources and their effective management. This includes setting a good collective example in personal philanthropy.
- Interpret Whittier College to the public that contributes to its purposes and defend the institution, when necessary, from inappropriate intrusion. Conversely, help interpret society's needs and expectations for the College's faculty and management. Serve as both a buffer and a bridge.
- Ensure that the reputation of the Board of Trustees is exemplary in the course of meeting its responsibilities.
- Ensure that the College serves as a good "citizen" in its relationships with other social, educational, and business enterprises through appropriate collaborations and partnerships.
- Assess the Board of Trustees' performance periodically through an appropriate process that ensures objectivity and a follow up action agenda.

Membership on the Board of Trustees of Whittier College is an honor, a service, and a responsibility. Elected for three-year, renewable terms, individual trustees must:

- Devote time and energy to become and remain educated about the mission and business of the College, make informed decisions, and be a good ambassador. Joyfully attend ceremonies and special meetings.
- Believe in Whittier's mission and responsibilities to serve the diverse society that supports and depends on it.