Exercise: Self-Assessment on Fiduciary Duties

Good governance calls on us to develop the capacity of the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) to improve both our personal and collective contributions to fulfill the fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. Towards this end, and as outlined in SBHE policy 302.5, the Governance Committee will conduct regular Board self-assessments. The assessments, both board and individual, are designed to strengthen board culture, develop strategies for improved performance, increase effectiveness, create a vehicle for feedback, and address concerns.

This is a self-reflection exercise. Your self-assessment is personal and need not be shared with anyone else. If you want to discuss any portion of your self-assessment with the Board Chair or the Chancellor – the option is available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Board Member Responsibilities</strong></th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As a SBHE member, I have acquired a reasonable level of knowledge of (SBHE Policy 310.1.d):</td>
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<td>The mission of each institution of higher education in the North Dakota University System and how the institution, through its administration and faculty, plans to achieve its mission;</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>The traditional organization and governance structure of an associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree-granting institution of higher education;</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>The relationship of North Dakota University System institutions with other institutions of higher learning and other educational systems within North Dakota;</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>The competitive position of North Dakota University System institutions in the regional and national marketplace;</td>
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<td>The provisions of state law governing the Board and its activities;</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>The internal and external forces which affect the environment in which higher education and the North Dakota University System operate; and</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>The structural relationship among the Governor, the legislature, the Chancellor, the System office, the North Dakota University System institutions and the Board.</td>
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</table>
**Board Member Advocacy**

As a SBHE member, I serve as an advocate of quality, efficient, and effective higher education in North Dakota by S(BHE Policy 301.1.e):

- Assisting in the development and ongoing review of a clear and concise Board strategic plan, including the goals and objectives, for the North Dakota University System;  
  
- Assisting in establishing appropriate measures to monitor and assess achievement of the goals;  
  
- Assisting in evaluating Board performance, and the performance of the Chancellor;  
  
- Participating responsibly in board meetings;  
  
- Devoting the time necessary to carry a fair share of Board leadership responsibility;  
  
- Assisting in establishing effective policies of governance; and  
  
- Taking part in reasonable amounts of professional development.

**Duty of Obedience**

I review regularly key governing documents and policies of the SBHE.  

I am knowledgeable of SBHE legal requirements such as statutory authority, open meeting and open records requirements.  

I conform to and advocate the SBHE’s belief’s and core values.

**Duty of Loyalty**

Once a decision has been reached, I support the SBHE (the SBHE speaks with one voice).
Disagree | Agree
--- | ---
1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5

My decisions are based on the best interest of the SBHE as a whole – irrespective of my affiliation with individual campuses or constituencies (i.e. faculty, staff, student).

I know how to record and resolve potential conflicts of interest.

**Duty of Care**

I review all the SBHE information prior to each meeting.

Attendance at SBHE meetings is a high priority for me.

I do my best to avoid interruptions from other business or personal matters during SBHE meetings.

I listen thoughtfully to SBHE discussions and presentations and avoid distracting side-bar conversations or internet roaming.

I exercise due diligence in decision making.

My strengths in fulfilling SBHE responsibilities are…

One thing I would like to know more about my SBHE role and responsibilities is…

My goals for improving my own performance as a member of the SBHE over the next 12 months are…