



Success. It's In Our Nature.

Policy Name: General and Ethical Standards for Trustees

Policy Number: BOT-3

Functional Area(s) Responsible: Board of Trustees

Owner of Policy: Board of Trustees

Most Recent BOT Approval Date: 05/01/2024 (New Policy)

Most Recent Review Date: 04/26/2024

Most Recent Review/Revision Type: none minor/non-substantive substantive/extensive

Policy Statement:

At Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC), the overriding priority is the educational success of every student and the sustainability of the institution.

Reason(s) for Policy:

Priority of Educational Success

Applicability of Policy:

Trustees meet this concern by carrying out the legal roles and responsibilities of their office and as keepers of the public trust by pledging to:

1. Be knowledgeable of and fulfill the requirements of the office, as specified by New York State Education Law, Open Meetings Law, the FLCC Board of Trustees by-laws, and other related laws.
2. Take actions that are in the best interest of the College, its mission and vision, and especially its students.
3. Function as a policymaker and not an administrator of the institution
4. Cooperate with fellow board members and respect differences of opinion.
5. Hire and support the president as the chief administrative officer of the institution, providing regular feedback and evaluations.
6. Adopt Policy only after full discussion and a review of input and work together to adopt thoughtful and effective Board policies.
7. Vote on all issues based on facts and concern for all persons affected.
8. Support all policies and decisions of the board.
9. Acknowledge the Board Chair as the sole official spokesperson for the Board, recognizing and accepting that as individuals, trustees have no legal authority outside of the meetings of the Board Trustees, and therefore will not represent themselves as speaking for the Board of Trustees, including any relationships with faculty, staff, students, local citizenry, and news and social media.
10. As a member of the Board of Trustees, refer or direct complaints or criticisms to the Office of the President for investigation and action.

Privileges & Responsibilities

FLCC Trustees will:

- Attend regularly scheduled Board Meetings and be prepared to discuss issues.
- Base decisions on available facts and thoughtful consideration.
- Relay public reaction to Board policies and College programs to the full Board of Trustees.

- Learn about current educational issues through individual study and through professional trustee development and other informational programs.
- Proactively support and emulate the values of the College.
- Honor the history of the institution while advocating for innovation and sustainability for the future.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and not use their offices for personal or partisan gain.
- Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration and keep privileged information confidential.
- Maintain the highest ethical standards and abide by the Board's ethics and conflict-of-interest policies and laws.

Review date/action taken:

The Policy will be evaluated every five years by the Board Development Committee and Board of Trustees but updated as needed.

Effective Date

This policy is effective on the date that it is signed by the Board chair and secretary.