



**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY**

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**Board Operations  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD AND  
INDIVIDUAL REGENTS**

**Adopted:** February 10, 1989

**Amended:** October 10, 2003

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD  
AND INDIVIDUAL REGENTS**

**Subd. 1. Responsibilities of the Board of Regents.** Responsibilities of the Board of Regents (Board) include the following:

- (a) Clarify the mission of the University of Minnesota (University) and approve programs necessary to fulfill that mission.
- (b) Monitor and evaluate the performance of the institution in achieving its goals and fulfilling its mission.
- (c) Appoint, monitor, advise, motivate, support, evaluate, and, if necessary or advisable, replace the president.
- (d) Approve major policies, long-range plans, educational programs, and annual budgets, while clearly delegating administrative responsibilities.
- (e) Accept fiduciary responsibility for the long-term welfare of the University.
- (f) Ensure adequate resources—human, financial, physical—and effective management of those resources.
- (g) Preserve institutional autonomy, recognizing that the preservation of autonomy requires accountability.
- (h) Foster collaboration with other educational systems and institutions, consistent with the University's mission.
- (i) Serve as a court of appeals when appropriate.
- (j) Enhance the public image of the University.
- (k) Regularly evaluate the Board's performance and strive to improve it.
- (l) Ensure that the University remains an equal opportunity institution.



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**Subd. 2. Individual Regent Responsibilities.** Responsibilities of individual members of the Board include the following:

- (a) To support the mission of the University.
- (b) To maintain loyalty to the entire institution rather than to any part of the University or constituency within it.
- (c) To maintain the highest ethical standards, abiding by Board policies with respect to ethics and conflicts of interest.
- (d) To seek to be fully informed about the University and its role in the state and in higher education and to be responsive to the changing environments that affect it.
- (e) To speak forthrightly at Board meetings and to support Board decisions when determined.
- (f) To understand that the Board's role is policy making rather than involvement in administration or management.
- (g) To strengthen and sustain the president while being an active, energetic, and probing Board member who exercises critical judgment on policy matters.
- (h) To communicate promptly to the president any significant concern or complaint for administrative disposition.
- (i) To defend the autonomy and independence of the University.
- (j) To represent all the people of Minnesota and no particular interest, community, or constituency.
- (k) To enhance the public image of the University and the Board.
- (l) To recognize that authority rests only with the Board as a whole and not in its individual members.



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- (m) To recognize that the president is the primary spokesperson for the University, and the chair of the Board is the only other person authorized to speak for the Board.
- (n) To foster openness and trust among members of the Board, the administration, the faculty, the students, state government, and the public.
- (o) To maintain respect for the opinions of Board colleagues and a proper restraint in criticism of colleagues and officers.
- (p) To recognize that no Board member shall make any request or demand for action that violates the written policies, rules, or regulations of the Board or the University.