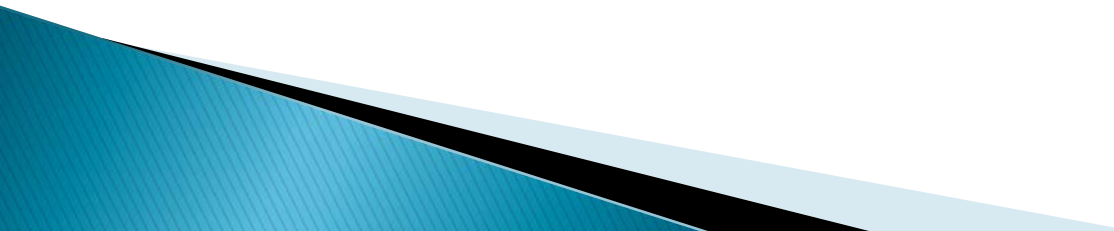


Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

AN OVERVIEW



GOALS OF WORKSHOP

- ▶ Understanding the basics of accreditation
 - ▶ Understanding the role of the institution's board in the accreditation process
 - ▶ Discussion of current issues (institutional and national) in higher education today
- 

TYPES OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

- ▶ National Agencies

Accredit institutions of higher education that have a single focus irrespective of location

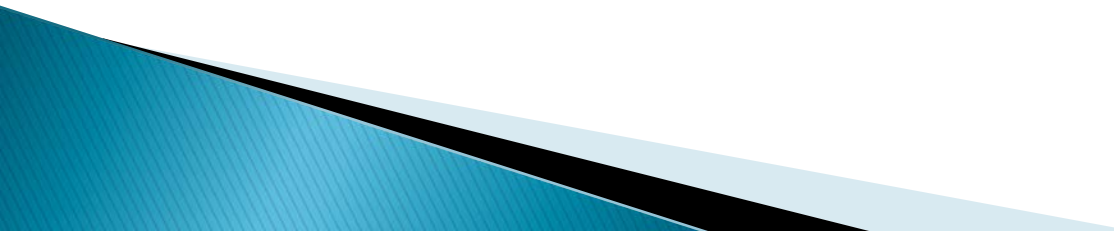
- ▶ Regional Agencies

Accredit all aspects of an institution of higher education in specific regions

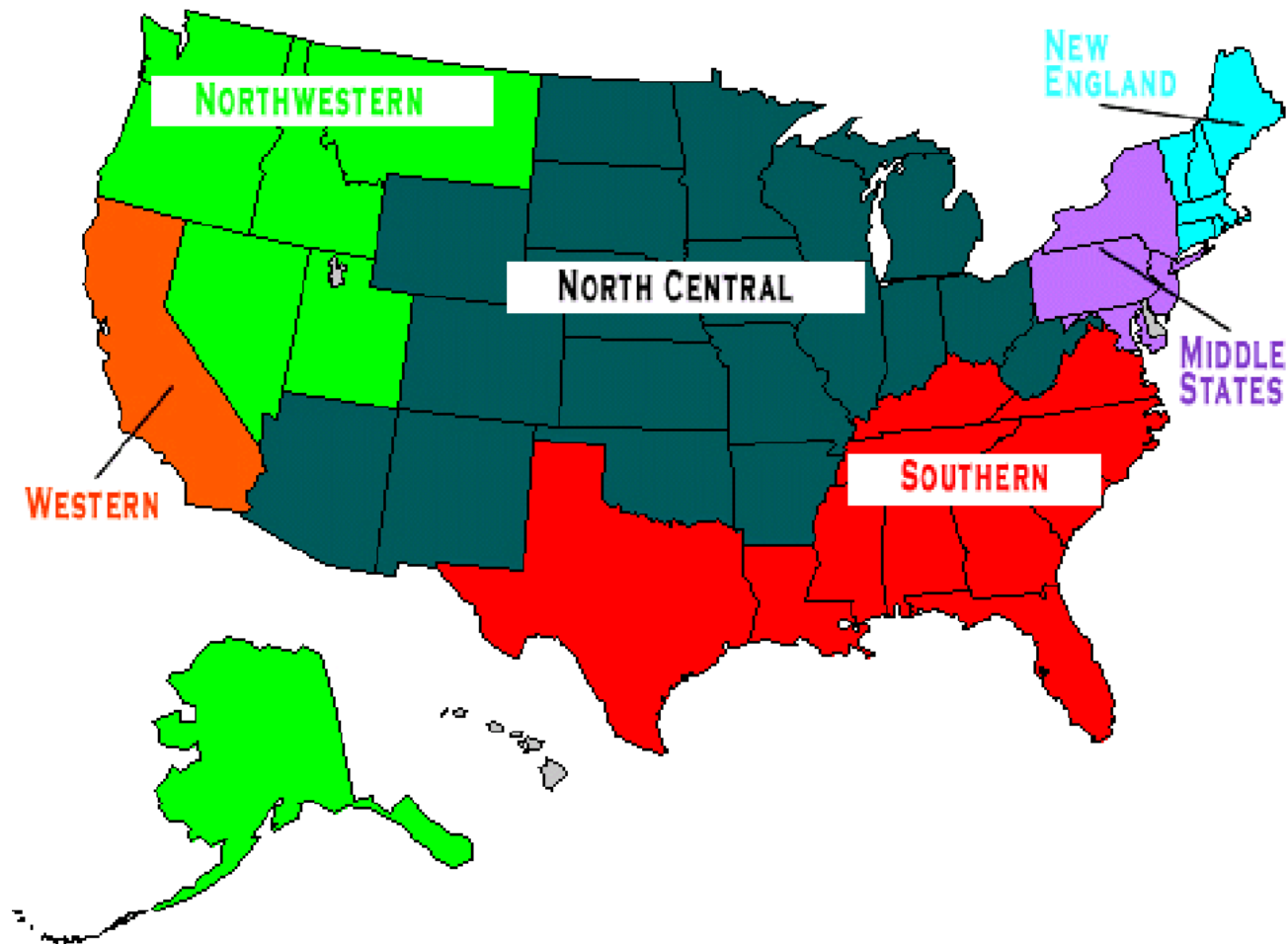
- ▶ Specialized or Professional Agencies

Accredit programs within institutions

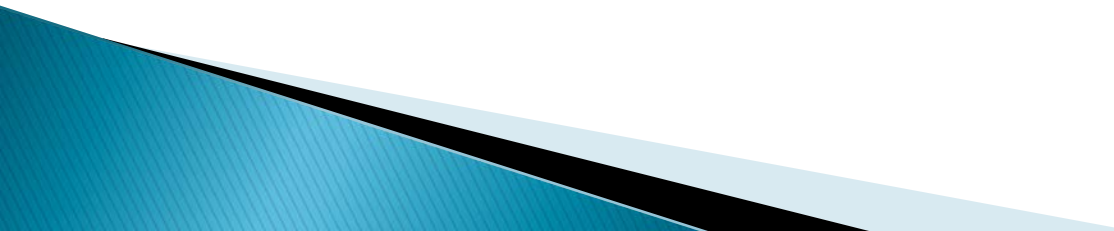
REGIONAL ACCREDITATION PURPOSES

- ▶ Improve Quality throughout the institution
 - ▶ Assure the public that institutions meet established standards
 - ▶ Serve as a “gate-keeper” for federal financial aid
- 

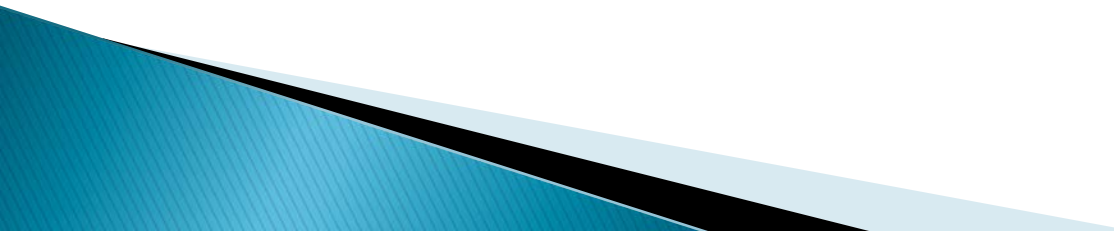
SIX REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS




Oversight of Commission Activities

- ▶ Review by U.S. Department of Education based on recognition standards
 - ▶ Recommendation by DOE to National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) (Appointed group of educators and public members)
 - ▶ NACIQI makes recommendation to recognize or not recognize an accrediting agency to U.S. Secretary of Education
- 

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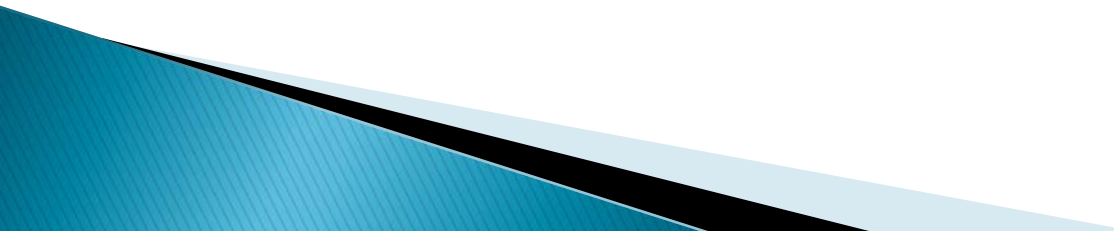
Principles of Accreditation

- ▶ The requirements and standards which institutions must meet to become members and remain members
 - ▶ Developed by committees or task forces consisting of representatives of member institutions
 - ▶ Can be changed only by vote of College Delegate Assembly
- 


Principles of Accreditation

- ▶ Principle of Integrity
- ▶ Core Requirements (CR)
 - Governance, Administrative Structure, Mission, Curriculum, Learning Resources, Student Support Services, Financial and Physical Resources, Faculty, Evaluation and Planning, Quality Enhancement Plan
- ▶ Comprehensive Standards (CS)
 - Same as above but in further detail
- ▶ Federal Requirements (FR)
 - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies, student authentication, credit hour, state authorization

ROLES OF THE BOARD

- *Policy-making body*
 - *Hire, Evaluate and, when necessary, Fire the CEO*
 - *Fiduciary responsibility for the institution*
- 

Reaffirmation Process

- ▶ Leadership Orientation
 - ▶ Compliance Certification
 - ▶ Off-Site Committee Review
 - ▶ Focused Report
 - ▶ On-Site Committee Review
 - ▶ QEP
 - ▶ Non-Compliance Issues
 - ▶ Selected Issues for US DOE
 - ▶ C&R Committee Review
 - ▶ Executive Council Review
 - ▶ Board Approval
- 

Possible SACSCOC Board Actions

- ▶ Accreditation Reaffirmed
- ▶ Reaffirmed with a Monitoring Report
- ▶ Reaffirmed with Follow-up to be included in Fifth-Year Interim Report
- ▶ Placed on Warning (6 or 12 months)
- ▶ Placed on Probation (6 or 12 months)
- ▶ Dropped from Membership---this is the only action that can be appealed for (1) failure of SACSCOC Board to follow procedures or (2) decision was arbitrary and unreasonable

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE

Complementary but separate duties

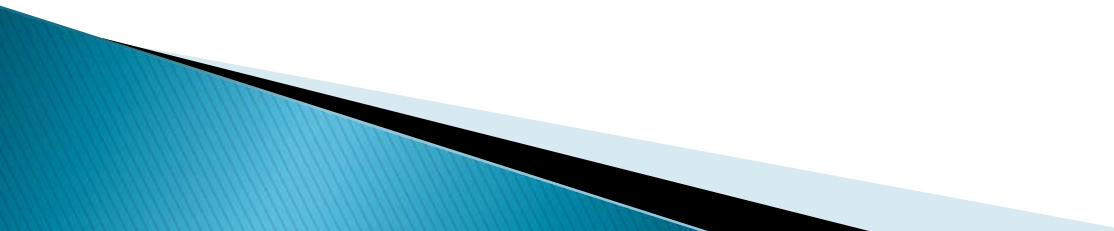
[Clear and appropriate distinction, in writing & in practice, between policy-making function of board & responsibility of administration & faculty to implement policy.] (CS 3.2.6)

BOARD STATUS/STRUCTURE

Is the legal body with authority over institution.

Minimum of five members.

Not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations/interests separate from it. (CR 2.2)

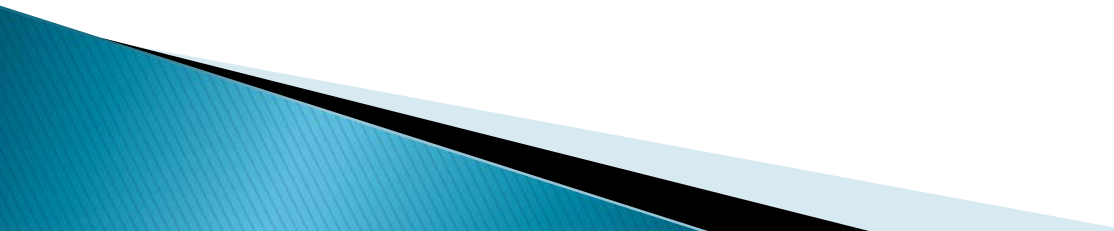


ROLES OF THE BOARD

Responsibility & authority of faculty

[Policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in governance and academic matters.]

(CR 2.2 & CS 3.7.5)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Academic freedom

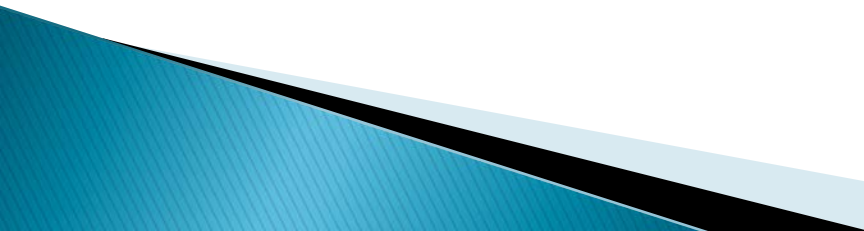
[Ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom.] (CS 3.7.4)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Protect institution from undue influence

[Maintain freedom from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence.]

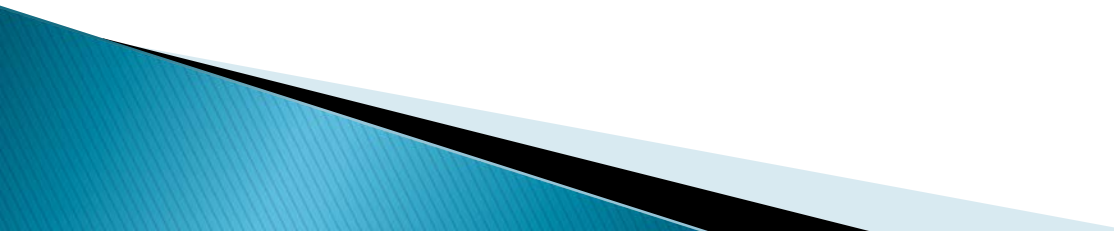
(CS 3.2.4)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Conflict of interest

[Presiding officer of the board & a majority of the other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.] (CR 2.2)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Select and evaluate the CEO

[The governing board is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer.] (CS 3.2.1)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Board member dismissal

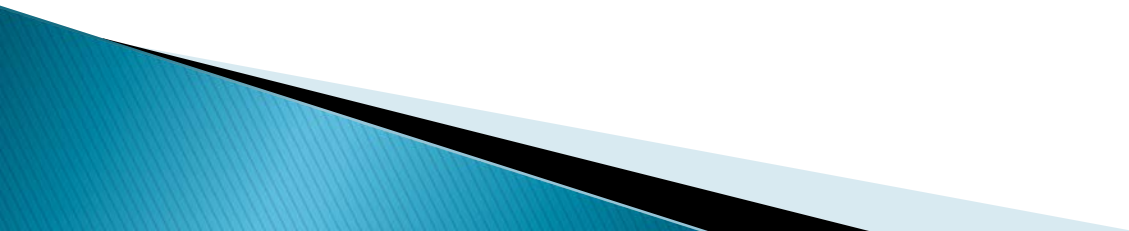
[Policy whereby board members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.] (CS 3.2.5)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

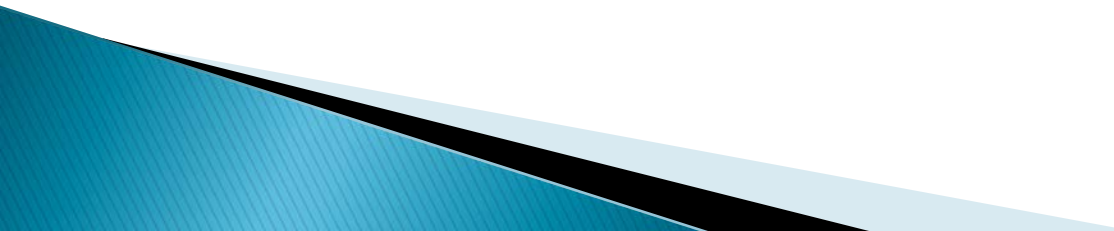
Ensuring adequate financial resources and stability (CR 2.2 ; CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.1)

Provide appropriate financial statements (CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.3; FR 4.7)

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Top Ten Issues in Higher Education Today

1. College Completion
 2. College Readiness (Developmental Ed.)
 3. Funding (Performance Based, Mergers, etc.)
 4. Campus Safety & Security
 5. Alternate Methods of Learning (Dist. Ed., CBE, badges, liberal arts vs. occupational ed., etc.)
 6. Politics
 7. Cost and Student Debt
 8. Transfer of Credits
 9. Board Behavior and Responsibilities
 10. New Leadership Recruitment & Training
- 

Juggling Act



SACSCOC Students Are Central to Success

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