

Governing Regulation I — Declaration of Principles

The University of Kentucky is a promise — a promise to the people of the Commonwealth to advance the state through education, service, research and care. The *Governing Regulations*, along with its implementing *Administrative Regulations*, articulate principles for how policy is created, how authority and responsibilities for executing those policies are distributed and, ultimately, how they are operationalized to ensure the successful management of the institution.

To those ends, the Board of Trustees declares these principles to guide all aspects of the governance of the University.

A. The Board of Trustees Holds the Final Authority for the University

1. The Board of Trustees Is the Representative Body of the People

The General Assembly, as the People’s agents, created the University as an independent body politic of the Executive Branch. Complying with the federal mandate to establish a land grant institution,¹ the General Assembly defined the powers, mission and scope of the University.² Through the democratic process, the Legislature or the People themselves may alter the University or its mission.

To ensure accountability to the People, the General Assembly established the Board of Trustees to serve as the People’s Representatives.³ Sixteen Trustees are appointed by the Governor — an elected constitutional officer — and confirmed by the state Senate, elected representatives of the People.⁴ Four of the 20 Trustees are chosen through democratic elections involving various parts of the University community.⁵ To continue accountability after the appointment or election, in certain circumstances, the Governor may remove any Trustee or all appointed Trustees.⁶

2. The Board Has Final Policymaking Authority and Final Administrative Authority

Subject to the limitations by the Constitutions and the law, the Board — as the People’s Representatives — has final authority over all matters including financial, educational and other policies of the University. This reflects the original understanding of the Board’s role. Indeed, the original *Governing Regulation I*, adopted in 1917, declared the Board “is the final authority in all matters affecting the institution and exercises jurisdiction over its financial, educational and other policies, and its relation with the state and federal governments.”⁷

The Board’s final authority encompasses both policymaking authority and administrative authority. The Board decides the policies for the University, and it delegates responsibility for the implementation of those policies to the President.⁸

In adopting this *Governing Regulation*, the Board explicitly withdraws all earlier delegations of its policymaking authority.

Consistent with the principles of the institution's accrediting body, the Board, after hearing recommendations from the President, will decide the policies of the University. In formulating recommendations, the President shall consult with students, faculty and staff as the President deems appropriate.

3. The Board Delegates Administrative Authority to the President

As the University is complex, it is necessary for the Board to delegate administrative authority over day-to-day operations to the President.⁹ In exercising administrative authority, the President is accountable to the Board. The Board may remove the President at any time in accordance with the President's contract.

It is necessary for the President to further delegate some administrative authority to the President's subordinates. These individuals will have significant authority but will always be subject to the ongoing supervision of the President.

This delegation of administrative authority to the President is consistent with the University's accrediting body. Indeed, "[t]he chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate control over, the institution's educational, administrative, and fiscal programs and services."¹⁰ Furthermore, "[the chief executive officer] oversees an organizational structure that includes key academic and administrative officers and decision makers with credentials appropriate to their respective responsibilities."¹¹ "Generally this oversight is done through a structural arrangement whereby key officers of the institution report directly to the [chief executive officer], or to a chief operating officer who in turn reports to the chief executive officer."¹²

B. Shared Governance

Shared governance is a bedrock principle and a value of the University. It is critical to how the University meets its mission. The Board shall set the policy direction for the institution. The President shall implement policy. In doing so, the President shall seek the counsel of students, faculty and staff, particularly within their respective domains of expertise.

More specifically, subordinate to the Board, governance of the institution is best understood as the President of the University managing the operations of the institution and setting forth a long-term direction for the University, based on the policies established by the Board. To ensure success, the President, directly or through delegated subordinates, will regularly consult with the students as represented in the Student Government Association, the faculty as represented in the Faculty Senate and the staff as represented in the Staff Senate.

Such shared governance is a system of mutual responsibility in which students, faculty and staff take part in the decision-and-policy-making process through advice and counsel to the President. A structure and ethos of shared governance exist to provide avenues for voices to be heard and represented in ways that establish a sense of mutual respect and collaboration aimed at University improvement and productivity, centered on the mission of advancing the Commonwealth and the students of the University.

A part of shared governance is the primary role of the faculty — particularly at the department, schools and college levels — in the review, development and implementation of the institution’s credit-bearing and non-credit bearing curriculum in academic colleges. As such, the University’s educational programs must reflect appropriate input and participation of constituencies. Faculty members should have a substantive role in the development and review of academic policies.

C. Academic Freedom

The University “is deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom, which is of transcendent value” for the entire institution.”¹³ *All* members of the University community “must always remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, to gain new maturity and understanding; otherwise, our civilization will stagnate and die.”¹⁴ An intellectually vibrant academic community is one that fosters civil dialogue and respectful debate, irrespective of ideology, identity, perspective or point of view.

While all members of the University community have academic freedom, it is particularly important to faculty members. Regardless of tenure status or tenure eligibility, faculty academic freedom covers all speech in a formal instructional setting related to the subject of the course and all scholarly speech related to the faculty member’s area or expertise.¹⁵

Yet, as sacrosanct as the value of academic freedom is, it is important to also delineate what it is not. During formal instruction, faculty members should be free — and must be free — to express their views and perspectives on issues relating to their academic expertise. Formal instruction does not allow for faculty members to impose their personal viewpoints on students or engage in promotion of ideas outside their domains of expertise. Formal instruction is for learning and discussion, not indoctrination. Nevertheless, students must be prepared to accept that the subject matter of a course may challenge their beliefs and even cause them discomfort.

D. All Members of the University Community Have Equal Dignity

The University follows both the federal and state Constitutions as well as all applicable federal and state laws on nondiscrimination. The University provides equal opportunities for qualified persons in all aspects of institutional operations,

and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, creed, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, uniformed service, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, social or economic status or whether the person is a smoker or nonsmoker, as long as the person complies with University regulation concerning smoking.

E. The University Must Operate with Ethical Principles

Exemplary ethical conduct is critically important. To that end, the President, in consultation with the appropriate shared governance bodies, will develop applicable codes of conduct and promulgate as *Administrative Regulations*.

The decisions and behaviors of members of the University community shall be guided by the core values of integrity, excellence, mutual respect and human dignity, academic freedom, personal and institutional responsibility and accountability, shared governance, a sense of community, work-life sensitivity, civic engagement, social responsibility and bringing together many people, one community.

F. Supremacy of the Governing Regulations

Subject to the limitations imposed by the federal and state Constitutions as well as federal and state law, the *Governing Regulations* are the supreme policy of the University.

Conclusion and Adoption of these Principles

The University of Kentucky is a promise, an enduring oath established at the institution's founding in 1865 to advance the Commonwealth that is its namesake.

That promise has never changed but it has necessarily evolved.

The institution has grown, and the needs of the Commonwealth and the world have increased in both scale and complexity.

A multi-faceted mission for the University of Kentucky is now embodied in a commitment to service and engagement that occupies a presence in every county of the state, that extends access to specialty care to more people, that conducts research and ignites discovery into the challenges that most confront communities and in which students are educated in ways that prepare them to thrive in an interdependent, complex world.

The *Governing Regulations* enumerated above and in the pages that follow establish guiding principles — and the basis for clear rules and regulations — for a University

community that continually seeks to inform and enliven that promise, today and into the future.

The Board adopts these principles on this ___ day of ___ in the year two thousand twenty-four and of the University the one hundred and sixtieth.

¹ [7 U.S.C. §§ 301 et seq.](#)

² [KRS §§ 164.100 et seq.](#)

³ See [KRS § 164.131\(1\)\(a\)](#).

⁴ [KRS § 164.131\(1\)\(e\)](#).

⁵ [KRS § 164.131\(1\)\(e\)](#).

⁶ [KRS § 164.131\(1\)\(d\)](#). The statute allows removal of an individual Trustee for cause under [KRS § 63.080\(2\)](#); one or more Trustees for non-compliance with statutory requirements concerning membership under [KRS § 63.080\(3\)](#); and the entire appointed board membership for cause under [KRS § 63.080\(4\)](#).

⁷ [1917 Governing Regulation I](#) (reprinted in the Board of Trustees Minutes for December 10, 1917).

⁸ [SACSCOC Principle 4.2.b](#).

⁹ See [KRS § 164.220\(1\)](#).

¹⁰ [SACSCOC Principle 5.2.a](#).

¹¹ *Rationale and Notes for SACSCOC Principle 5.2.a.*, in [SACSCOC RESOURCE MANUAL FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION 35 \(4th ed. 2024\)](#) (alteration in original).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ [Keyishian v. Board of Regents of Univ. of State of New York](#), 385 U.S. 589, 603 (1967).

¹⁴ [Sweezy v. New Hampshire](#), 354 U.S. 234, 250 (1957).

¹⁵ See [Meriwether v. Hartop](#), 992 F.3d 492, 507 (6th Cir. 2021).

GOVERNING REGULATION II — The Board of Trustees

A. Authority of the Board of Trustees

As the People's Representatives, the Board of Trustees has final authority over all matters of the University including financial, educational and other policies of the University.¹ In addition, the Board defines and annually evaluates its responsibilities and expectations.

B. Membership

Sixteen Trustees are appointed by the Governor — an elected constitutional officer — and confirmed by the state Senate, elected representatives of the People.² Four of the 20 Trustees are chosen through democratic elections involving various parts of the University community.³ To continue accountability after the appointment or election, in certain circumstances, the Governor may remove any Trustee or all appointed Trustees.⁴

As various parts of the University community must elect four of the 20 Trustees, the President, in consultation with the respective shared governance bodies, will recommend for Board approval a resolution detailing the rules and procedures for such democratic elections, in accordance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes in effect at the time of the elections.

C. Officers

1. Elections

The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary/Parliamentarian and the three at-large members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and three at large Executive Committee members shall be trustees.

2. The Chair

The Chair of the Board of Trustees: (1) presides over meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee; (2) appoints the chair and all members of all Committees, except the Executive Committee and University Athletics Committee; (3) serves as spokesperson for the Board; and (4) performs other duties as assigned by the Board. The Chair of the Board of Trustees is limited to no more than four consecutive terms as Chair.

The President, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, will appoint the chair and Trustee members of the University Athletics Committee.

3. The Vice Chair

In the case of a vacancy or disability of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Vice Chair shall exercise the functions of the Chair until the Board of Trustees takes further action.

3. Secretary

The Secretary keeps the minutes of all meetings, issues notices of meetings and provides for the publication and distribution of the minutes.

4. Assistant Secretary/Parliamentarian

When the Secretary is absent, the Assistant Secretary/Parliamentarian may perform the duties of the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary/Parliamentarian need not be a member of the Board.

D. Executive Committee

1. Membership

The Executive Committee consists of the Chair, Vice Chair and three Trustee members elected by the Board of Trustees.⁵ The Secretary is an ex officio non-voting member.

2. Responsibilities

The Executive Committee: (1) exercises oversight of the financial and business interests of the University and possesses the same powers as the Board of Trustees during the periods between meetings of the full Board of Trustees; (2) serves as the performance review committee for the President; (3) provides recommendations on policy matters concerning shared governance; and (4) serves in an advisory capacity to the President on regulations and policies, institutional compliance and accountability.

3. Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held as necessary at the call of the Chair. The President may attend all meetings, unless the Executive Committee moves into closed session under the appropriate provisions of the state's Open Meetings Act⁶, at which time attendance can be limited to the Trustees of a committee along with those designated to attend who may have business before that committee.⁷

4. Ratification of Actions of the Executive Committee

The Board of Trustees requires the Executive Committee to submit to the Board of Trustees at each meeting, for the Board's consideration and approval, a complete record of the proceedings of the Executive Committee. The authority of the Board of Trustees to amend the action of the Executive Committee does not extend to the rejection of any valid or authenticated expenditure of money by the Executive Committee.

E. Meetings of the Board of Trustees

1. Frequency

The Board of Trustees shall meet at least quarterly. The Chair or any three Trustees acting together may call special meetings by giving 10 days' written notice to each Trustee. The notice of the special meeting will specify the subject of the special meeting.⁸

A majority of the Trustees constitutes a quorum.⁹

2. Public Meetings

The meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

The Board will arrange for a transcript of each of its meetings, send an agenda for each of the meetings to each Trustee and make a copy of the agenda available to the public.

For regularly scheduled meetings, the agenda shall be released to the public at least three full business days prior to the Board meeting.

The Board and its Committees will follow the Kentucky Open Meetings Act.¹⁰

3. Expenses

The University shall pay all necessary expenses incurred by the Trustees in traveling to and from and while attending meetings of the Board.

4. Agenda

The Chair shall specify the order of business at Board meetings.

5. Parliamentary Authority

Except where the Board has adopted different rules, the Board will follow the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* while conducting the business.

F. Conflicts of Interest of Board Membership

All Trustees must comply with the Kentucky Revised Statutes concerning conflicts of interest. On an annual basis, all Trustees will execute a statement attesting to their compliance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

G. Standing and Special Committees

The purpose of standing and special committees is to help the Board in its oversight role by gathering information, discussing and providing advice on policy proposals prior to their coming before the entire Board. Members of the University community and the public may attend any committee meeting, unless a committee moves into closed session under the appropriate provisions of the state's Open Meetings Act¹¹, at which time attendance can be limited to the Trustees of a committee along with those designated to attend who may have business before that committee.¹² Membership of standing committees is at least five Trustees, including the committee chair.

1. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

This Committee: (1) reviews recommendations on policy matters about the academic mission of the University in education, research, service and care as well as to policy matters concerning academic freedom and tenure; (2) reviews recommendations regarding undergraduate admissions with the President being responsible for the implementation of the Board's decision; (3) reviews new academic degree-program proposals; (4) reviews academic degree-program closure proposals; (5) reviews the list of candidates for academic degrees recommended by the faculty of the respective colleges; and (6) reviews recommendations concerning the general welfare of students and the adoption of rules, procedures, rights and responsibilities governing non-academic relationships between the University and its students.

2. Audit and Compliance Committee

This Committee: (1) reviews recommendations and appoints the external auditors; (2) receives and reviews the annual financial and other reports from the external auditors and reports on such to the Board; and (3) receives and reviews reports from persons with responsibility for accountability and compliance on the University's system of internal controls and compliance with applicable laws, regulations and University policy.

3. Finance Committee

This Committee: (1) ensures the financial stability and long-term economic health of the University by checking the financial operations of the University and its affiliated corporations and making appropriate recommendations to the Board; (2) maintains

oversight responsibility for the financial management of the University in the areas of accounting, auditing, payroll, purchasing, capital construction, real property and affiliated corporations; (3) oversees the budgets of the University by reviewing and recommending to the Board on the annual operating budgets; (4) exercises oversight of the following aspects of the University's retirement plans: retirement ages and overall contribution; and (5) approves the University processes for designation and disposal of surplus personal property.

Additionally, this Committee ensures that accurate and complete financial records are maintained by reviewing and recommending to the Board on: (1) annual financial reports; (2) interim financial reports; (3) long-term debt obligations; (4) gifts and pledges to the University of \$1,000,000 or more, if payable over five years or less; (5) capital projects of \$1,000,000 or more; (6) leases greater than \$200,000 per year; (7) disposition of property; (8) sale of assets; and (9) financial transactions not provided for in the annual operating budget.

4. Human Resources and University Relations Committee

This Committee: (1) reviews recommendations to the Board about policies regarding employee benefits, rights and privileges requiring Board approval; (2) reviews recommendations relating to the economic, social and public policy environments within which the University operates that directly affect the institution; and (3) reviews policies or policy proposals regarding marketing and development as well as public, governmental and alumni relations.

5. Investment Committee

This Committee is responsible for review and oversight of the endowment investment programs of the University and its affiliated corporations and entities.¹³ These responsibilities include: (1) formulating and reviewing investment policies; (2) appointing, monitoring and evaluating investment managers and consultants; and (3) reviewing and approving plans for the general management of the endowment funds of the University.

In addition to the five voting Trustees, this Committee may have up to five non-voting Community Advisory Members to aid it in its functions by providing specialized advice and support. The President, in consultation with the Board Chair, will appoint the Community Advisory Members. The Community Advisory Members will serve for a three-year term and may be reappointed.

6. Nominating Committee

This Committee: (1) nominates officers of the Board and at-large Trustees of the Executive Committee; and (2) reviews and recommends the appointment of Trustees

to serve on the boards and committees of the University and its affiliated corporations.

7. University Athletics Committee

While both the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the University's accrediting body require that the President has sole authority for, and exercises proper administrative and fiscal control over, the intercollegiate athletics program, this Committee assists the President by: (1) providing counsel to the President concerning matters or activities of the Athletics Department; and (2) reviewing the Athletics Department's annual budget and audit reports, major expenditures and acquisitions and construction of facilities if the cost is expected to exceed \$1,000,000.

In addition to the five voting Trustees, the Committee shall include the Faculty Athletics Representative as an ex officio, non-voting member and up to three Community Advisory Members to aid it in its functions by providing specialized advice and support. The President, in consultation with the Board Chair, will appoint the Community Advisory Members. The Community Advisory Members will serve for a three-year term and may be reappointed.

8. University Health Care Committee

This Committee: (1) serves as the governing body and governing authority to manage and operate the University's academic health system in accordance with the Conditions of Participation promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and with all applicable laws and regulations; and (2) has responsibility for the University's clinical enterprise, including the development of policies, rules and regulations for the governance of the University's academic health system.

In addition to the five voting Trustees, the Committee may have up to five non-voting Community Advisory Members to aid it in its functions by providing specialized advice and support. The President, in consultation with the Board Chair, will appoint the Community Advisory Members. The Community Advisory Members will serve for a three-year term and may be reappointed.

9. Special Committees

The Chair may establish and appoint special committees at any time and with such charge as the Chair may determine. Special committees shall fulfill their duties as specified and report to the Board. Such committees will function until their final report. Membership must include Trustees and may also include persons who are not Trustees, when confirmed by Board.

H. Appointments Requiring Action by the Board

1. Appointment of the President

The Board — in consultation with students, faculty, staff, alumni and leaders throughout the Commonwealth and the nation — shall appoint a President.¹⁴ The Board will determine the President's compensation and appropriate terms and conditions of employment including performance expectations. The Board shall annually evaluate the President.

2. Academic Appointments

The Board, acting upon the recommendation of the President, shall take final University action on all appointments, reappointments and promotions of faculty members to positions which involve: (a) an actual or equivalent academic rank of associate professor or professor; or (b) tenure.

I. Petitions to Address the Board

Any person may file a petition to address the Board. Such petitions must be limited to subjects on the Board's meeting agenda.

The Chair, in the Chair's sole discretion, decides whether the petition is related to the Board's meeting agenda.

The Chair, in consultation with the President, will establish reasonable and appropriate limitations on the number of petitioners who may address the Board at each meeting and the time allowed for each address.

J. Amendment of the Governing Regulations

Any Trustee, the President or any shared governance body — through the President — may propose an amendment to the *Governing Regulations*. Each Governing Regulation should be reviewed, at a minimum, of every five years.

If the Board approves the proposed amendment, the Secretary will send the proposed amendment to the President and all shared governance bodies for review and feedback. This review and feedback period will last at least 30 days.

At the end of the review and feedback period, the Board will consider the proposed amendment again. The Board's actions, including any alterations to the original proposed amendment because of the review and feedback period, are final.

Any amendments adopted by the Board become effective at once unless the Board specifies a different effective date.

¹ See, e.g., [KRS § 164.165](#) (Board, as University of Kentucky, has authority to operate a printing plant); [KRS § 164.200](#) (Board has authority to establish proper regulations for government of University and physical training, suspension, and dismissal of students); [KRS § 164.210](#) (Board has authority to determine colleges, schools, divisions, departments, bureaus, and offices which comprise the University as a land-grant institution, as well as relationship of the divisions to one another and the University and all other acts needful for welfare of institution); [KRS § 164.220](#) (Board has authority to appoint and determine compensation, duties and official relations of president, professors, assistants, tutors, and other personnel); [KRS § 164.225](#) (Board has exclusive authority over appointments, qualifications, salaries, compensation, promotions, and official relationships of all employees of institution); [KRS § 164.230](#) (Board has “full power” to suspend or remove officers, teachers, and professors for cause, as well as other agents, generally); [KRS 164.240](#) (Board may grant degrees to graduates of the University, prescribe the conditions upon which postgraduate honors “may be obtained, and confer such honorary degrees, upon the recommendation of the faculty of the university, as it thinks proper”); [KRS § 164.260](#) (Board has authority to acquire additional land, property, and material for institution); and [KRS § 164.270](#) (Board has authority to sell certain real estate with approval of Governor).

² [KRS § 164.131](#).

³ [KRS § 164.131\(1\)\(e\)](#).

⁴ [KRS § 164.131\(1\)\(d\)](#). The statute allows removal of an individual member for cause under [KRS § 63.080\(2\)](#); one or more members for non-compliance with statutory requirements concerning membership under [KRS § 63.080\(3\)](#); and the entire appointed board membership for cause under [KRS § 63.080\(4\)](#).

⁵ [KRS § 164.190](#).

⁶ [KRS §§ 61.800 et seq.](#)

⁷ [KRS § 61.810](#).

⁸ [KRS § 164.170](#).

⁹ [KRS § 164.170](#).

¹⁰ [KRS §§ 61.800 et seq.](#)

¹¹ [KRS §§ 61.800 et seq.](#)

¹² [KRS § 61.810](#).

¹³ [KRS §§ 164A.550 et seq.](#)

¹⁴ [KRS § 164.220\(1\)](#).

Governing Regulation III — The President

A. Appointment and Evaluation of the President

The Board — in consultation with students, faculty, staff, alumni and leaders throughout the Commonwealth and the nation — shall appoint a President.¹ The Board shall set the President's compensation and appropriate terms and conditions of employment including performance expectations. The Board shall annually evaluate the President.

B. Authority of the President

The University is a complex institution, making it necessary for the Board to delegate administrative authority for day-to-day operations to the President. The President will further delegate some administrative authority to subordinates.

The President is the chief executive officer of the University and has full authority and responsibility over its administration. It is the duty of the President to make recommendations relating to the general policies of the institution. It is the duty of the President directly — or through the President's delegates — to supervise and administer all phases of the University and to perform all other functions necessary for the successful operation of the institution.

By virtue of the Board's delegation, the President has the authority to: (1) appoint a President's cabinet and all employees subordinate to the President's cabinet; (2) take all measures necessary to comply with state and federal law as well as the requirements of all accrediting bodies; (3) promulgate and implement *Administrative Regulations*; (4) consult with the Student Government Association, Faculty Senate and Staff Senate on matters affecting the University; (5) appoint committees and work groups to provide recommendations to the President; (6) develop a proposed institutional budget for approval by the Board; (7) determine the University's position on matters pending before governmental bodies and agencies; (8) speak for — or designate someone to speak for — the University in all external and internal communications; (9) authorize the commencement of litigation and settlement of litigation as well as any appeal or effort to seek discretionary review; and (10) take any other action necessary and proper to implement the Board's policies.

The President has the authority to interpret the *Governing Regulations* and *Administrative Regulations*. The President's interpretation is binding on all members of the University community, unless otherwise prescribed by Board.

The President does not have the authority to suspend rules concerning admissions or the number of credits and quality points required for graduation.

C. Vacancy or Disability of the President

In case of a vacancy of the President or disability of the President, the Provost shall exercise the functions of the President until the Board of Trustees takes further action.

¹ [KRS § 164.220\(1\)](#).

Governing Regulation IV — The Faculty’s Primary Responsibility for the Credit-Bearing and Non-Credit Bearing Curriculum in Academic Colleges

Subject to the approval of the Board and in keeping with the shared governance principles established in these *Governing Regulations*, the faculty has primary responsibility for the content, quality and effectiveness of the credit-bearing and non-credit bearing curriculum in academic colleges.¹

Because faculty members at the department, school and college levels have the greatest expertise as to what is needed within respective disciplines, these faculty members should make recommendations to the Provost, the President and the Board of Trustees on credit-bearing and non-credit bearing curricula, degrees, courses, certificates and diplomas in academic colleges offered at the University. The Provost — or that official’s designee — shall consult with the Faculty Senate on credit-bearing and non-credit bearing curriculum issues in academic colleges to ensure academic quality and further transdisciplinary collaboration, including disputes between and among colleges to mitigate against unnecessary duplication and establishment or closure of degree-granting academic programs.

A. Role of the Faculty, at the College Level, in the Conferral of Degrees

Before conferring an academic degree, the Kentucky Revised Statutes requires the Board to obtain a recommendation from the faculty.² The President shall establish procedures for obtaining the recommendation of the faculty of the college that is granting the degree and that is most familiar with the student’s work.

The Board may grant degrees to graduates of the university, prescribe the conditions upon which postgraduate honors may be obtained, and confer such honorary degrees, upon the recommendation of the faculty of the university, as it thinks proper.³

¹ See, *Rationale and Notes for SACSCOC Principle 10.4*, in [SACSCOC RESOURCE MANUAL FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION 96 \(4th ed. 2024\)](#).

² [KRS § 164.240](#).

³ *Id.*

Governing Regulation V — Shared Governance Bodies

As set forth in *Governing Regulation I*, the Board of Trustees has final authority over all aspects of the University. Further, as set out in *Governing Regulation I*, the Board delegates administrative authority to the President. Nevertheless, the President shall regularly and consistently seek counsel from the University's students, faculty and staff in keeping with the fundamental commitment to shared governance as described in *Governing Regulation I*.

To facilitate this consultation, the Board establishes shared governance bodies for the students, the faculty and the staff, respectively. Each shared governance body plays a vital role by informing and influencing the President.

The shared governance bodies (Student Government Association (SGA), Faculty Senate and Staff Senate) may establish policies pertaining to the internal organizational structure and operation of its particular body and such policies shall be promulgated as an *Administrative Regulation*. Policymaking and administrative responsibilities of the University fall to the respective and appropriate offices as determined by the President.

A. The Student Government Association

The Student Government Association is the official representative body of the students at the University. Subject to the limitations imposed by the law, the *Governing Regulations* or *Administrative Regulations*, the Student Government Association, through the SGA President, shall on an ongoing basis: (1) represent the views of the student body to the President and other shared governance bodies; (2) be formally engaged in and consulted about relevant matters important to students such as tuition, the student code of conduct, student services, student fees, attendance and absence policies, student employment and student life matters; (3) promote the general well-being of students within the University; (4) foster mutual respect, collaboration and cooperation between students, faculty and staff; and (5) provide services to the students, faculty and staff.

The administrative liaison to the Student Government Association shall be the Vice President for Student Success or that officer's designee.

B. The Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the faculty of the University. Subject to the limitations imposed by the law, the *Governing Regulations* or *Administrative Regulations*, the Faculty Senate shall on an ongoing basis: (1) be formally engaged in and consulted about relevant matters important to faculty to ensure the credit-bearing and non-credit bearing curriculum in academic colleges aligns with the University's mission, which would include academic degree-program

reviews, approvals and closures, attendance and absence policies, as well as the general education program requirements; (2) advise the Provost on University-wide criteria, policies and procedures for performance review, appointments, reappointments, promotions, granting of tenure, career progression, compensation and benefits to faculty in the University; (3) advise the President on measures necessary to preserve and protect the University's deep commitment to free speech and academic freedom as set forth in *Governing Regulation I*; (4) advise the President as to the ethical and professional standards applicable to members of the University's faculty; and (5) represent the views of the faculty to the President and other shared governance bodies.

The administrative liaison to the Faculty Senate shall be the Provost or that officer's designee.

C. The Staff Senate

The Staff Senate is the official representative body of the staff of the University. Subject to the limitations imposed by the law, any *Governing Regulation* or any *Administrative Regulation*, the Staff Senate shall on an ongoing basis: (1) recommend and advise the President of the University on the broad personnel policies of the University, including University-wide policies that are required by governmental or accreditation agencies; (2) be formally engaged and consulted about relevant matters important to staff such as career progression, compensation, benefits, physical infrastructure, purchasing, travel, budget and human resources; (3) advise the President as to the ethical and professional standards applicable to members of the University's staff; and (4) represent the views of the staff to the President and other shared governance bodies.

The administrative liaison to the Staff Senate shall be the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration or that officer's designee.

Governing Regulation VI — The President’s Council

A. Charge

The President's Council holds a critical role in providing strategic guidance to advance the University of Kentucky's mission and goals. The President's Council offers counsel to the President on high-level issues and opportunities crucial to the institution's success.

B. Membership

The President’s Council includes the University President and 12 members, consisting of four students, four faculty and four staff. The President's Council shall consist of both elected and appointed members, selected to represent diverse perspectives and the teaching, research, service and care missions of the University of Kentucky.

The President of the Student Government Association, the Chair of the Faculty Senate and the Chair of the Staff Senate, respectively, shall each be a member.

The selection process of the additional nine members is detailed in the *Administrative Regulations*.

Council members will serve for one year and may be reappointed.

C. President's Council Functions

The President's Council serves as a strategic advisory body, providing counsel to the President on a wide range of high-level issues critical to the success of the University of Kentucky.

The President’s Council shall advise on strategic priorities, which may include, but not be limited to the University’s annual Board of Trustees retreat, the strategic plan, key performance metrics, new initiatives to consider and budgetary priorities. The Council helps shape the future direction of the University and ensures alignment across the four missions of teaching, research, service and care.

The President’s Council will meet on a cadence determined by the President.