

TRUSTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



AN EXCELLENT BOARD ...



EMBRACES

Embraces the value proposition of the institution, its mission & culture



CREATES

Creates and maintains a steward board culture



UNDERSTANDS

Understands and exercises steward board authority



ENSURES

Ensures the sustainability of the institution via strategic thinking and planning



PRACTICES

Practices strategic board development and evaluation

Agreeing to serve on the Board of a Christian college or university can be a very rewarding experience. The most effective boards do an exceptional job of ensuring that all members understand the importance of their roles and responsibilities.

Questions for Discussion

1. Considering the three types of board governance (fiduciary, strategic, generative), how does your board find time in a meeting agenda to engage in all three modes?
2. Of the five responsibilities cited, which ones does your board do well and which ones should receive more attention?
3. ABHE Standard 4 states that trustees have the legal and fiduciary responsibility to exercise appropriate oversight over institutional integrity, policies, resource development, and ongoing operations. What measures does your board take to ensure there is a clear line of distinction between governance oversight and day-to-day management of operations?
4. Under Standard 4 are twelve governance subpoints that are reviewed by visiting teams during the accreditation process. If your institution has not been through a visit recently, now may be a good time to look at them and ensure your board is in compliance.
5. Reflecting on your New Trustee Orientation process, what are some components that may need to be incorporated in the future to help new board members become more familiar with the expectations of highly engaged trustees?

For additional research: *Governance as Leadership* by Chait, Ryan, and Taylor.