

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

POLICY ON ORIENTATION, TRAINING, AND DEVELOPMENT FOR TRUSTEES

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees to establish and maintain trustee orientation, training, and development programs to enhance the effectiveness of the Board and its member trustees.

Guidelines

1. All new trustees shall participate in an orientation, training and development program (which may involve tutorials, webinars and on campus programs) developed by the President and the Board Chair. The program will be designed to assist trustees in understanding the University and the Board, and their roles and responsibilities as University trustees. From time to time, a “refresher” session shall be offered to all trustees.
2. All trustees newly appointed to Board Committees shall participate in a Committee orientation program developed by the senior administrator who serves as liaison to the Committee and the Committee Chair. The program should seek to educate Committee members about the strategic priorities of their Committee in order to foster a level of comfort that will allow them to participate freely and actively in meetings and other Committee work.
3. The Board shall annually, participate in a Board education and training retreat planned under the direction of the Board Chair in consultation with the President. The retreat will be designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Board, as a Board and/or in relation to advancement of the institutional mission and strategic goals. The Board will also periodically undertake self-assessment of its effectiveness in a manner consistent with relevant best practices.
4. The University shall, within the constraints of the approved operating budget, maintain membership in national associations that represent the interests of comparable institutions and promote board and board member effectiveness. Also within such constraints, Board leadership and staff, and the President, are encouraged to participate in the educational and leadership development programs of such associations.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: September 9, 2006

Approved as Amended by the Board of Trustees: February 5, 2011