

Standard IV: Leadership and Governance
Section C: Governing Board

IV.C.9 The governing board has an ongoing training program for board development, including new member orientation. It has a mechanism for providing for continuity of board membership and staggered terms of office.

To provide feedback on this draft, please use the feedback survey at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/5KTmAHo3bk>

Evidence of Meeting the Standard

- Board Policy 1008: Board of Trustees Orientation and Development
- Board Policy 1005

Analysis and Evaluation

Board Development

Board Policy 1008 (Board of Trustees Orientation and Development) outlines the general procedures for ongoing board development, including orientation of candidates for the board as well as orientation for new board members. Per policy, anyone interested in running for the Board is invited to one of several orientation sessions at which the “job” of the trustee is carefully described, and an orientation to MPC is provided. This ensures that all candidates have a basic understanding of the college and the requirements of the position. Following their election, newly elected board members begin a more in-depth orientation as soon after the election as possible to help them understand both the operations of the District and the functions of the Board. As part of the orientation process, the Superintendent/President provides each incoming board member with materials relevant to board member responsibilities, including materials related to the California Community College system. Incoming board members also receive a copy of the Brown Act, and are informed that they must conform to its requirements as if they had already assumed office.

The Governing Board recognizes that current members also need training that will help them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education and develop boardmanship skills. Board Policy 1008 outlines the types of ongoing development activities that may provide useful, including conferences and state meetings, board retreats, and study sessions.

In recognition of the need for ongoing board development, each year the Board develops a calendar of conferences and meetings that support the needs and performance goals of its members. All Board members are encouraged to attend conferences and/or state meetings, subject to available funds, for the purposes of acquiring skills as new Board members, learning about new developments in education and to interact with Board members from other districts. Recent conferences individual trustees have attended include the CCLC Annual Convention in November 2014, and the CCLC Legislative Conference and Board Chair Workshop in January 2015. In both cases, trustees attended with the Superintendent/President. As not all board members attend each conference, the tradition is for attendees to share a synopsis of the sessions attended with other board members, which allows them the possibility of gaining some of the benefits from attendance.

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In 2013, CCLC created a comprehensive program for trustee training, entitled Excellence in Trusteeship. Completion of the program requires attendance at a total of 27 workshops and other training sessions, across seven competency areas (accreditation, student success, governance, fiscal responsibilities, board evaluation, ethics training and Brown Act training), over a two-year period. As of this writing, one current MPC Trustee has completed the program – among the first in the state to do so – and a second trustee has completed roughly two-thirds of the program.

The Governing Board also uses internal mechanisms for training and board development. On January 23, 2015, the Board held its first retreat in 12 years. The retreat, which was appropriately noticed and open to the public, provided the opportunity for attendees to broadly assess the current and likely future problems facing the college, to examine alternative responses to those problems, and more generally to enhance the working relationship of the Board as a governing body. The retreat was held on the campus of CSU Monterey Bay, and encompassed a full day of discussion.

The Board also uses *ad hoc* study sessions with staff, faculty and members from the public to examine new developments and/or critical issues. Study sessions are created throughout the year whenever warranted, and provide a less formal vehicle through which to examine specific issues. Study sessions, also appropriately noticed and open to the public, allow for a less formal discussion on specified topics than could occur at a regular board meeting. In January 2014, the Board held a public study session on institutional responses to budget-issues that included active participation and comment from students, faculty, and community members.

Continuity of Membership

Board Policy 1005 stipulates that board members serve for four-year terms of office, and that these terms should be staggered to provide continuity and stability on MPC's Governing Board. As of this writing, the board membership terms are staggered as follows:

- Trustee Area 1: Mr. Charles Brown (elected 2013, term expires 2017)
- Trustee Area 2: Dr. Margaret-Anne Coppernoll (elected 2013, term expires 2017)
- Trustee Area 3: Mr. Rick Johnson (elected 2011, term expires 2015)
- Trustee Area 4: Ms. Marilyn Gustafson (elected 2011, term expires 2015)
- Trustee Area 5: Dr. Loren Steck (elected 2011, term expires 2015)

Conclusion: Monterey Peninsula College meets this standard.

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