

# ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR TRUSTEES

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## I. Purpose

It shall be the policy of the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees that all Trustees follow high standards of ethics and conduct.

The successful operation and reputation of Lansing Community College is built upon the principles of fair dealing and ethical conduct of our Trustees. Our reputation for integrity and excellence requires careful observance of the spirit and letter of all applicable law and regulations, as well as a scrupulous regard for the highest standards of conduct and personal integrity.

The continued success of Lansing Community College is dependent upon our community's trust and we are dedicated to preserving that trust. Trustees owe a duty to Lansing Community College, its students and the community to act in a way that will merit the continued trust and confidence of the public.

Lansing Community College will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and expects its trustees, officers, and employees to conduct business in accordance with the letter, spirit, and intent of all relevant law and to refrain from an illegal, dishonest, or unethical conduct.

In general, the use of good judgment, based on high ethical principles, will guide the Trustees with respect to lines of acceptable conduct. If a situation arises where it is difficult to determine the proper course of action, the matter should be discussed openly at the Board of Trustees.

Compliance with this policy of business ethics and conduct is the responsibility of every Lansing Community College Trustee. Disregard or failing to comply with this standard of ethics and conduct could lead to disciplinary action, up to and including possible suspension of travel or other Board privileges, public censure or other such action as the Board deems appropriate.

## II. Scope

This policy applies to members of Lansing Community College Board of Trustees.

## III. General

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

1. Board members will be advocates of community college post secondary public education.
2. Board members will uphold and enforce all laws, State of Michigan Board of Education rules and regulations and judicial orders pertaining to community colleges. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
3. Board members will make decisions which consider the educational welfare of students and the public and will strive to maintain a community college which meets

the individual needs of all students regardless of their race, religion, creed, sex or social standing.

4. Board members will join, as appropriate, with fellow board members, College officers/staff, the community and students in a continuing study of the nature, value and direction of contemporary post-secondary education in order to maintain the appropriateness of the education mission of the College.
5. Board members will work to help the community understand the importance of community college education.
6. Board members will strive to ensure that people are accurately informed about the College and will try to interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for the College.
7. Board members will recognize that their responsibility is not to administer the College but, together with fellow Board members, to provide that it is well administered.
8. Board members will arrive at conclusions in meetings complying with the Open Public Meetings Act.
9. Board members will refuse to surrender their independent judgment to special interests or partisan political groups or use the College for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
10. Board members will refer complaints to the President and will act on such complaints at public meetings when appropriate.
11. Board members will uphold its Mutual Commitments adopted June 18, 2007.
12. A Board member shall not participate in any way in a matter in which he or she has a present financial or personal interest (direct or indirect). A Board member shall not vote on any motion or resolution before the Board in which he or she has a present financial or personal interest (direct or indirect).
13. A Board member shall be deemed to have a financial or personal interest in a matter if adoption or defeat of a resolution or motion if adoption or defeat of a resolution or motion or action on a matter by the College would cause the Board member or officer/staff or his/her spouse, children, immediate family or business to derive a monetary gain. Such person shall be deemed to have such a financial or personal interest if that person, or that person's spouse, children or immediate family are employed by or have an interest in a business which would derive a monetary gain as a result of action on a resolution, motion or matter. An interest in a business shall not be deemed to be the ownership of an insignificant number of shares in a publicly held company.
14. No Board member shall knowingly himself/herself, or by his/her partners or through any corporation which he/she controls or in which he/she owns or controls stock, or by any other person for his/her use or benefit or on his/her account, undertake or execute, in whole or in part, any contract, agreement, sale or purchase made, entered into, awarded to or granted by the College.

15. No Board member shall engage in, solicit, negotiate for or promise to accept praise employment or render services to private interests when such employment or services creates a substantial conflict with or substantially impairs the proper discharge of official duties. No board member shall use college office facilities or supplies other than in the proper discharge of his/her official duties.
16. No member of the Board of Trustees shall be interested directly or indirectly in any contract with or claim against the Board of Trustees.
17. This policy shall be reviewed periodically for the information and guidance of Board members and any new Board members and College officer/staff shall be given a copy of this policy upon entering on the duties of office.

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY**

##### **A. Review of Allegations of Misconduct:**

- 1) Persons desiring to make complaints concerning violations of this Ethics and Standard of Conduct for Trustees may do so confidentially by email to the Executive Assistant and Liaison to the Board. The Executive Assistant and Liaison to the Board will share the communication with the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees Audit Committee accepts and reviews complaints and concerns, anonymous or otherwise, about accounting and auditing practices from employees or members of the public. Concerns can be address to the Audit Committee Chair, LCC Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 40010, Lansing, MI 48901-7210.
- 2) All allegations of violations or misconduct on the part of Board members shall be referred to the Board of Trustees. All investigations and proceedings related to the resolution of the alleged misconduct shall be handled in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act and other applicable law.
- 3) Upon receiving such complaint the Board of Trustees shall initially review the apparent merits of the allegations. Where the complaint is deemed frivolous and without merit, no further action need be taken. If, however, the allegation may have merit, the Board in accordance with law shall initiate an investigation to gather facts upon which to base a conclusion as to the validity of the allegations made. Upon completing its investigation the Board shall prepare a report containing its findings and conclusions. This report shall provide the basis for the Board to take appropriate action in accordance with law with respect to the allegations.
- 4) Whenever any Board member is found to have violated these ethical standards, the Board shall take appropriate action.

#### **IV. Responsibility**

Responsibility for the interpretation and administration of this policy is delegated to the Board of Trustees or his/her designee.

Adopted: 6/18/2007 (original name: Ethics and Conduct)

Revised: 12/17/2018 (renamed: Ethics and Standards of Conduct for Trustees)