



Board of Trustees Code of Ethics

Each Board member signs the Sitting Bull College Board of Trustees Code of Ethics as follows.

The Board of Trustees commits itself to the very highest ethical conduct, in carrying out its requirements under tribal and federal laws.

I, _____, as a member of the Governing Board of Trustees member of Sitting Bull College, hereby agree to:

- Recognize that the primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to govern and evaluate the college to best meet the educational needs of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.
- Devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a college Board of Trustees member so that I may grow in my ability to render effective and credible service; enhance my ability to function as a trustee through the study of contemporary educational issues as well as through attendance at workshops and conferences - state, local and national.
- Work with my fellow Board of Trustees members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during vigorous debate.
- Base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; abide by and support the final majority decision of the board.
- Remember that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board of Trustees, and I will conduct any relationships with the college staff, the local citizenry and news media on the basis of this fact. I agree that the Board of Trustees Chairperson or designee serves as the official spokesperson and that the individual Board of Trustees members will not represent themselves as speaking for the Board of Trustees.
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the college.
- Review and analyze the college mission regularly.
- Bear in mind that the Board of Trustees accomplishes its responsibility to govern and evaluate the college by adopting the policies by which the college is to be governed, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of college business are the responsibility of the President.
- Welcome and encourage active participation by citizens in establishing policy.

- Assure the orderly operation of the Board of Trustees by bringing potential agenda items to the Board Chair and President before bringing proposed agenda items to the Board table.
- Recognize that discussions of the Board of Trustees in Executive Session are confidential.
- Be scrupulous in requesting only authorized and legitimate reimbursement of expenses.
- Be familiar with the duties imposed by tribal law upon me as a member of the Board of Trustees member; to understand those duties and powers as set by tribal ordinance; and to faithfully carry out those powers and duties to the best of my ability.
- Finally, to strive for the most effective college board in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

(September 2009)