

## **POLICY #5: GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

### **COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES**

**Approved August 18, 2016**

In accordance with the “one voice” principle, the board shall have no standing committees. However, from time to time, the board may establish committees to help carry out its responsibilities. Committees will be used sparingly, only when other methods have been deemed inadequate. Committees will be used so as to minimally interfere with the wholeness of the board’s job, and so as never to interfere with delegation from the board to the President.

1. Board committees may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Such authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the President.
2. Board committees are to help the board do its job, *not to help the staff do its jobs*. Committees will assist the board chiefly by preparing policy alternatives and implications for board deliberation. Board committees are not to be created by the board to advise staff.
3. If a board committee is used to monitor organizational performance in a given area, the same committee will not have helped the board create policy in that area. This is to prevent committee over-identification with an organizational part rather than the whole.
4. Board committees cannot exercise authority over staff and, in keeping with the board’s focus on the future, board committees will not ordinarily have direct dealings with current staff operations. Further, the board will not impede its direct delegation to the President by requiring approval of a board committee before an executive action. The President works for the board, never for a board committee or officer.
5. This policy applies only to committees which are formed by board action, whether or not the committees include non-board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the President.