

3.2.6

Governance and Administration: Board/administration distinction

There is a clear and appropriate distinction, in writing and practice, between the policy-making functions of the governing board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Compliance Report Narrative

Note: Text for all linked documents below can be increased/decreased for ease of reading by pressing your keyboard's Ctrl key while rotating the mouse wheel.

A clear and appropriate distinction exists, in writing and practice, between the policy-making functions of the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System and the responsibility of the Angelo State University administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.

The Texas Legislature has assigned to the Board of Regents responsibility for the "government, control, and direction of the policies" of all component institutions of the TTU System, of which ASU is a member ([TEC §109.21](#)). State law also stipulates that "the governing board of an institution of higher education shall provide the policy direction for each institution of higher education under its management and control" ([TEC §51.352\(b\)](#)). Taken together, these two statutes clearly establish policy-making as one of the board's primary functions.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System reiterate the authority of the board to govern ([Section 01.02, Regents' Rules](#)) and delegate to the chancellor of the TTU System the duties of "acting as executive agent of the board in implementing its policies and a system of internal controls" and "representing the TTU system in all other respects as deemed appropriate to carry out such policies, purposes and goals" ([Section 02.01.3 \(a\), Regents' Rules](#)). In turn, the chancellor authorizes the president of Angelo State University and his/her designee to "develop, administer, and coordinate all operations and programs" of the institution in keeping with the policies established by the board ([Section 02.04.2 \(a\), Regents' Rules](#)).

Distinctions in lines of authority among the board, the chancellor, and the president are also delineated in [ASU OP 01.03, Organization of Angelo State University](#).

Additional information regarding the organizational structure of ASU is provided in Comprehensive Standard 3.2.7, Organizational structure, and additional information on the role of faculty in administering and implementing policy may be found in Comprehensive Standard 3.7.5, Faculty role in governance.

In practice, a review of the minutes of the Board of Regents meetings shows that the Board restricts its activities to setting policy, approving projects, overseeing system finances, and similar legislatively mandated functions. Copies of board minutes are posted on the [Board of Regents website](#), and a representative example of meeting minutes is attached ([Board of Regents minutes December 15-16, 2011](#)).

The *Regents' Rules*, which are publicly available online ([Regents' Rules home page](#)), are distributed to all new regents at the time of their appointment. In addition, each new regent participates in a training program that focuses on the official role and duties of the members of the board and includes training in the areas of budgeting, policy development, and governance. Topics covered by this training program include the role of the board and the relationship between the board and ASU's administration, faculty, staff, and students ([TEC §61.084](#)). A sample [new regent orientation agenda](#) and [an overview of the new regent orientation process](#) are attached. The *Regents' Rules* and ASU OPs are communicated to ASU faculty, staff, and students through the ASU website. A link to the *Regents' Rules* is provided on the [OP Manual home page](#).

Off Site Team Comments

The Compliance Report adequately documents that there is an appropriate distinction between the governance and policy functions of the TTUS Board of Regents, the TTUS Chancellor, and the President and administration of Angelo State University. This is well-embedded in statute, in the Rules of the TTUS Board of Regents, and in the ASU OP 01.03, Organization of Angelo State University.

However, the institution did not document that the distinction is observed in practice.

University Response

There is a clear and appropriate distinction observed in practice between the policy-making functions of the Texas Tech University (TTUS) Board of Regents (BOR) and the day-to-day responsibility to the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy at the component institutions: ASU, Texas Tech University and the Health Sciences Center.

A recent example of the distinction between roles involves updates to smoking policies. The three component institutions--ASU, Tech, and the Health Science Center (HSC)--all chose to write different policies. ASU's policy, [section 3.a.3](#), limited smoking within 50 feet of a building's entrances; Tech's policy, [section 2](#), within 20 feet; and HSC's policy, [main section](#), bans smoking altogether. At the March 1, 2012, BOR meeting, the Regents [approved](#) all three policies (see section X.B.1.f-1.). The minutes note that the policies had already been approved administratively by each institution's president.

The above example is typical of many BOR approvals as are their approvals for promotions and granting of tenure (P&T), for which the work is accomplished at the institution. Several administrative levels at the institution--department chair, dean, P&T Committee, provost's office, president-- review and advance portfolios before names are sent to the BOR Academic, Clinical, and Student Affairs standing committee for discussion and questions before being sent to the Board for final approval: BOR minutes March 1, 2012, [section XI.B](#).