

5.B - Core Component 5.B

The institution's governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission.

1. The governing board is knowledgeable about the institution; it provides oversight of the institution's financial and academic policies and practices and meets its legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
2. The institution has and employs policies and procedures to engage its internal constituencies—including its governing board, administration, faculty, staff, and students—in the institution's governance.
3. Administration, faculty, staff, and students are involved in setting academic requirements, policy, and processes through effective structures for contribution and collaborative effort.

Argument

The [Constitution of Michigan](#) established the Board of Governors (BOG) as WSU's controlling board, charged with general supervision of the institution and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds; and with electing a president of the institution under its supervision. As described in Section 2.C., the BOG comprises eight members elected by the people of Michigan. The BOG enacts bylaws and promulgates university policy at the highest level through statutes codified as the Wayne State University Code Annotated (WSUCA).

For example, WSUCA Statute 2.12.01 ([Organization of the University](#)) identifies the principal divisions of the university, and defines the elements of university organization that can only be changed by the BOG, while also stating the President's full executive authority to make operational decisions not reserved to the BOG.

The [BOG bylaws](#) establish meetings of the board and its committees; [BOG officers](#); and [committee structure, composition, procedures, and responsibilities](#). The committee structure established by the bylaws of four standing committees ensures a process for comprehensive study and consideration of issues before such issues come before the full board for formal action. Bylaws also establish faculty and student participation with vote in each standing committee. Each committee is supported by institutional executive officers, faculty, and staff to ensure that governors have access to resources required for informed decision-making.

The BOG Chair appoints governors to one of [four standing committees](#):

1. Budget and Finance
2. Personnel
3. Student Affairs
4. Academic Affairs

BOG bylaws also establish the [Executive Committee](#), which comprises all BOG members in office and the President; and the [Audit Subcommittee](#) of the Executive Committee, which operates by charter. The Executive Committee meets in private [as permitted by law](#).

The BOG and its standing committees meet publicly to execute responsibilities as charged by the Constitution of Michigan. Meeting notices, agendas, and supporting documents are posted on the public BOG website (bog.wayne.edu) in advance of meetings. BOG and committee agendas include presentations by the President's Cabinet, WSU administration, faculty, and staff; presentations may inform committee or board action on specific issues, or may provide updates on institutional programs or operations.

Collective standing committee responsibilities as defined in the bylaws provide comprehensive BOG oversight of the institution's financial and academic policies and practices, and ensure that governance meets its legal and fiduciary responsibilities. Deliberations and actions are documented in committee meeting minutes and BOG Official Proceedings and posted on the public BOG website, on which official documents from 1976-present are accessible.

The WSU spirit of shared governance is affirmed at the highest level of the institution by the BOG. Through its bylaws, which [establish faculty and student participation with vote](#) in each of four standing BOG committees (3.15). Faculty committee representatives are [appointed by the Academic Senate](#) and student representatives are [appointed by the Student Senate](#). Designation of a faculty and student alternate to each committee ensures continuity of representation at all meetings.

Shared governance cascades throughout the institution by governing and advisory committees, and collective bargaining agreements:

- WSUCA Statute 2.26.04 [designates the Academic Senate](#) as the formal channel of communication between the faculty and the President and BOG, and establishes the Senate's authority and responsibilities for formulation and review of educational policy affecting the university as a whole, working with university officers designated by the President. The [Academic Senate bylaws](#) establish its governance structure and procedures.
- The AAUP-AFT collective bargaining agreement (CBA) ensures shared governance through many CBA provisions. For example, Article XXVII of the CBA codifies [establishment of bylaws in every academic unit](#); and establishes the rights of bargaining-unit members to participate with vote in the academic-governance activities addressed in Articles XII ([Compensation](#)), XVIII ([Selection Advisory Committees](#)), XXX ([University-Wide Committees](#)), and XXXI ([Budget Advisory](#)).
- As established by the CBA, faculty members participate in governance in their individual academic units, through the committee structure established by unit bylaws; and in the governance of their school/college, through the structure established by school/college bylaws.
- The Student Senate is the formal channel of communication between the students and WSU administration. It appoints members to BOG standing committees; and designates representatives to serve on university committees, such as the Tuition and Fee Appeals

Board and the Promotion and Tenure Committee. The [Student Senate bylaws](#) establish its governance structure and procedures.

- WSUCA Statute 2.22.01 [establishes the Graduate Council](#) and its authority and responsibility for development of basic policies for the graduate education system, designates the Graduate School Dean as its chair, establishes the composition of its membership, and empowers it to develop procedures, which are documented in the [Graduate Council bylaws](#).
- WSUCA Statute 2.43.03 [establishes the General Education Oversight Committee](#) to implement the General Education program. The statute addresses committee composition and empowers the provost to appoint its chair.
- The [Council of Deans](#) and the [Academic Senate Policy Committee](#) meet regularly with the Provost to exchange counsel and develop strategies responding to opportunities and challenges.

Ad-hoc committees are appointed and charged as required to address discrete issues; examples include the [Strategic Plan Steering Committee](#) and the HLC Steering Committee. (The membership of both examples included faculty, students, and staff.) As in these examples, Ad hoc committee membership may include faculty, student, and staff.

Sources

- Academic Senate - BOG Committee Representatives - AY 2017
- Academic Senate Bylaws - Revised 2016_10_05
- Academic Senate Bylaws - Revised 2016_10_05 (page number 9)
- BOG Audit Subcommittee Charter
- BOG Bylaws - Revised 2007_11_28
- BOG Bylaws - Revised 2007_11_28 (page number 3)
- BOG Bylaws - Revised 2007_11_28 (page number 6)
- BOG Bylaws - Revised 2007_11_28 (page number 7)
- BOG Bylaws - Revised 2007_11_28 (page number 8)
- BOG Members - 2017
- BOG Oath of Office Form
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - WSU and AAUP-AFT, Local 6075
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - WSU and AAUP-AFT, Local 6075 (page number 28)
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - WSU and AAUP-AFT, Local 6075 (page number 71)
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - WSU and AAUP-AFT, Local 6075 (page number 130)
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - WSU and AAUP-AFT, Local 6075 (page number 137)
- Constitution of Michigan of 1963 - Excerpt
- Council of Deans - Members
- Distinctively Wayne State University - Strategic Plan - 2016-2012
- Distinctively Wayne State University - Strategic Plan - 2016-2012 (page number 31)

- Graduate Council Bylaws - Revised 2005_10_19
- Michigan Compiled Laws - Act 267 of 1976 - Open Meetings
- President's Cabinet - Members
- Student Senate - BOG Committee Representatives - AY 2017
- Student Senate Bylaws - Revised April 2015
- Wayne State University Code Annotated - Summary of Statutes
- WSUCA Statute 2.12.01 - Organization of the University
- WSUCA Statute 2.22.01 - Graduate Education
- WSUCA Statute 2.26.04 - Academic Senate
- WSUCA Statute 2.43.03 - General Education Program