

3.2.2.3

Governance and Administration: Governing Board Control: Institutional Policy

The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution's governance structure:

3.2.2.3 institutional policy

Judgment

Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Not Applicable

Narrative

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) holds the authority for approval of institutional policy [1]. The purpose of the Tennessee Board of Regents is to "establish, govern, manage, and control the Tennessee State University and Community College System that is comprised of the universities, community colleges, and colleges of applied technology designated in T.C.A. § 49-8-101(a)[2]". The TBR "sets policies and guidelines that govern all institutions" [1][3]; thus, it has the authority for approval of institutional policy.

The President of Tennessee Technological University (TTU) is charged with the legal authority and operating responsibility of the institution as clearly stated in the TBR Policy 1.03.02.00 Duties of Presidents and Directors [4]. "The President shall be the executive head of the institution and of all its departments, and shall exercise such supervision and direction as will promote the efficient operation of the institution. He or she shall be responsible to the Board through the Chancellor of the Operation and management of the institution and for the execution of all directives of the Board and of the Chancellor."

As described in TTU Policy 101 (Section V.C.1)[5], only the President of TTU has the authority to issue TTU policies and has final review and approval of all University policies. "The President may in his or her sole discretion approve proposals of policies as submitted and may request additions or deletions or reject the policy in whole or in part" (Section V.C.2). In exigent circumstances, the President has the authority to implement a policy or interim policy, waive provisions of existing policies, or sign policies without the full procedural review described in Section V if the President believes such action is necessary. "The President may direct the appropriate Vice President or Direct Report to submit as soon as reasonably possible the excepted policy for full procedural review as described in Section V" [5].

The President of TTU delegates operational control of Auxiliary Services to the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, and the operational control of the TTU Foundation to the Vice President for University Advancement. TBR policy governs institutional policies, including those concerning auxiliary services and related corporate entities. According to TBR Policy B-020 [6], auxiliary services at TTU furnish "a service to students, faculty, or staff, and charges a fee directly related to, but not necessarily equal to, the cost of the service." Auxiliary services at TTU include Residential Life, University Bookstore, Dining Services, Post Office, Vending, Fitness Center, Craft Center Gallery, Craft Center Housing, and Craft Center Contracted Food Services. TBR policies (Classification and Operation of Auxiliary Enterprises, B-020, Revenues from Campus Concessions, 4:04:01:50 [7], and Purchasing Policies and Procedures, 4:02:10:00) [8] specify the procurement and operations of these services.

The TTU Foundation is the only corporate entity affiliated with the University. As defined by the TBR (Foundations, 4:01:07:02) [9], the TTU Foundation is "a non-profit organization which exists solely to

support and advance the objectives of the institution.” Discretionary expenditures of the Foundation must be reported by the office of the President quarterly to the TBR Office of Business and Finance, as stated in TBR policy (Reports and Expenditures by the Chancellor and Presidents, 4:03:03:60) [10]. The Agriculture Foundation for TTU and the Friends of the Appalachian Center for Crafts of Tennessee are separately constituted 501 c3 organizations, and do not operate under the TBR.












As required by TBR policy (Internal Audit, 4:01:05:00) [11], TTU “maintains a quality assurance and improvement program that incorporates both internal and external review activities” that applies to the regular examination of institutional policy on both Auxiliary Services and the TTU Foundation. Furthermore, as the TTU Foundation is one with an “identity [that] must be maintained separate from the institution” (TBR policy, Foundations, 4:01:07:02) [9], the Foundation has its own governing board that considers institutional policy.

For additional information on the role of the TBR, see CR 2.2.

Conclusion

The TBR holds the authority for approval of institutional policy. As required by TBR Policy 1:03:02:00 Duties of Presidents and Directors, the President of TTU is charged with legal authority and operating responsibility for TTU. The President delegates operational control of Auxiliary Services to the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, and the operational control of the TTU Foundation to the Vice President for University Advancement. TBR policies govern the operation of related and affiliated corporate entities and all auxiliary services. TTU is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.2.3.

Sources

-  [01] TBR Bylaws Duties of the Board
-  [02] Tennessee Code Annotated_49_8_101
-  [03] Board of Regents
-  [04] Duties of the Presidents and Directors
-  [05] TTU Policy 101
-  [06] Classification and Operation of Auxiliary Enterprises_B_020
-  [07] Revenues from Campus Concession
-  [08] Purchasing Policies and Procedures
-  [09] Foundations_4_01_07_02
-  [10] Reports of Expenditures by the Chancellor and Presidents_4_03_03_60
-  [11] Internal Audit_4_01_05_00