

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS POLICY DIRECTION ON BOARD AND SENATE RELATIONSHIPS**

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The Board of Governors is committed to developing and maintaining best practices in governance by strengthening its own performance and by building an effective and positive relationship with the Senate. A relationship built on mutual support and participation is necessary to fulfill the University of the Fraser Valley's ("the University") mandate and to achieve its Integrated Strategic Plan and related plans.

The Board is responsible to oversee and guide the University in compliance with its mandate, legal and regulatory requirements; and to ensure the public's interests are respected and protected. To do this, the Board is involved in policy making, strategic planning, goal setting, performance monitoring, asset protection, and accountability, ensuring systems to identify and manage risk, setting standards of conduct for the University, and supervising management through the President.

The Board recognizes and supports the Senate as the steward of the University's academic integrity and its role as the governing body responsible for policies, procedures, and standards for regulating and governing academic affairs as defined in the University Act ("the Act"). The Board looks to the Senate as a source for academic initiatives, expertise, and advice.

In addition, the Act defines areas of shared governance, collegial decision-making, and specifies where the Board is to consult or seek advice from the Senate to facilitate the Board's decision making and actions. Clear policy statements and defined procedures are paramount in establishing and maintaining a positive working relationship between the two bodies. The quality of the relationship is facilitated and enriched by regular and effective communication, including planned and constructive exchange of information.

The Board is invested in supporting and facilitating timely, effective, and business-like procedures and decisions in the work of the Senate. To this end, the Board may delegate to the President the authority to act on behalf of the Board, in sharing information, consulting with, seeking advice, or in decision-making matters before the Senate that are within the Board's roles and responsibilities.

Authority to act may be delegated to the President, but responsibility rests with the Board. The university develops and maintains information-reporting structures for the Board on the work and decisions of the Senate, including actions taken by the President on behalf of the Board on matters involving the Senate.

Reference: Section 27 and 35.2 (6) of the University Act