

# Western Illinois University

## Board of Trustees

### Board Roles and Responsibilities

1. Work with the President to provide strategy and direction for the institution. This would include discussion, approval and dissemination of a strategic plan, mission and oversight of strategic initiatives of the university.
2. Maintain fiduciary oversight of the financial and legal obligations of the university. Financial oversight, budgeting, development of an audit function, assuring that the university and the board operate within the requirements of state and federal law.
3. Recruit and select the President.
4. Support and evaluate the President of the institution.
5. Know and understand higher education governance. This includes being aware of important trends and issues in higher education governance, taking advantage of training and using best practices when operating the board.
6. Assure that the University works to secure adequate resources. Support and participate as appropriate the efforts of the President to work with state and federal officials to assure adequate funding for the campus and fundraising efforts.
7. Hold the President accountable for the oversight and monitoring of operations, physical plant and facilities. Understand the campus master plan, advise on operating issues as appropriate and monitor student life, recreation, athletics and other aspects of the campus community.
8. Serve as public liaison. Represent the university at events, including graduation, meetings of external groups, alumni associations and in other settings. In coordination with the President, communicate and engage with members of the state legislature, the governor, state and local officials, and the public on issues of importance to the university.
9. Hold the President accountable for monitoring the investments and university endowment.
10. Preserve, protect and ensure the quality of the institution. Be knowledgeable about the academic programs and planned changes or improvements in the programs.
11. Be accountable for Board operations:
  - a. Work with the University to identify potential members for the Board.
  - b. Establish and maintain an appropriate structure for operations including the officers, committees, sub-committees, task forces, temporary working groups.
  - c. Participate in meetings, alumni events, graduation, campus events and other activities that will demonstrate board interest and concern for the university.
  - d. Establish and maintain methods to get or exchange information.
  - e. Prepare for meetings through reading and research as appropriate.
  - f. Volunteer for leadership of working groups, committees or other activities.
  - g. Take responsibility for personal education, development and learning. Identify and participate in training as needed by the whole board or individuals on the board.
  - h. Establish and maintain an effective orientation process for all board members (including the Student Member of the Board of Trustees).