

SUNY Board of Trustees Powers and Duties

The Board of Trustees is established as the governing body of the State University of New York pursuant to Section 353 of the Education Law of the State of New York. Additional sections of the Education Law, the Executive Law, and the Civil Service Law describe or affect the Board makeup, the Board's planning functions and its administrative and fiscal functions. Certain functions have been delegated by the Board. A summary of the major Board functions follows (numbers in parenthesis refer to sections of the State Education Law unless otherwise indicated).

Corporate Board Functions:

- Provide for regular meetings, call special meetings, hold regular and special hearings, provide for notice of same (§353(2); see also By-Laws, Tab 9)
- Appoint its own officers and staff, prescribe their duties and compensation (§353(3); through its adopted Policies, the Board has delegated to the Chancellor the appointment of staff below the level of Vice Chancellor)
- Elect an executive committee of the Board (§353(4))

Planning Functions:

- Formulate or revise the University Master Plan (§354(1); see the most recent Master Plan included in this Handbook)
- Transmit the Master Plan to Board of Regents and Governor (§354(2))
- Report on progress under the Master Plan (§354(3))
- Regulate curriculum, and plan new curriculum as part of the Master Plan (§§355(2)(h), 354(1)(a))

Administrative/Fiscal Functions:

- Overall central administration, supervision and coordination of the state-operated campuses (§355(1)(a))
- General supervision and coordination of statutory colleges (§§355(1)(a), 357, 5711, 5712, 5714)

- General supervision over requests for appropriations, budgets, estimates and expenditures of statutory colleges (§§5711(3), 5712(3), 5714(4), 6103)
- Review and coordination of budget and appropriation requests of all state - operated institutions and statutory colleges; combine with fiscal requirements of community colleges and combine into a single university program budget for submission to the Governor, together with appropriate comments from independent colleges that operate the statutory colleges (§355(4)(a))
- File schedules of positions, salaries for maintenance and operation and for nonpersonal service out of lump sum and consolidated appropriations with the Director of the Budget, chairs of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees and the State Comptroller (§355(4)(b))
- File certificates allocating amounts available for expenditure when such amounts are less than amount appropriated (§355(4)(b))
- Enter into contracts, leases or other agreements deemed necessary for carrying out purposes of the State University (§§355(5), (6))
- Annually negotiate with State Comptroller for increases in contracting authority without prior approval (§355(5)(a))
- Prepare annual reports to the Governor and other State officials: submit bi-monthly reports of receipts and disbursements (§359)
- Provide to legislative fiscal committees annually the State University's formula/methodology to allocate appropriated funding to each campus (§355(19))
- Approve and submit to the chairs of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees and to the Director of the Budget an annual Master Capital Plan (§355(13))
- Increase or decrease appropriations by transfer or interchange among programs and institutions (§§355(4)(c)(1) and (2))
- Approve establishment of community colleges; provide standards and regulations concerning the organization and operation of community college programs, curricula, financing arrangements, tuition charges, fees, etc. (§§355(1)(c), 6301 et seq.)
- Establish health and medical centers, four year liberal arts colleges, professional and graduate schools, research centers and other facilities (§355(1)(d))
- Approve appointment of heads of statutory and community colleges (§355(1)(e))

- Appoint heads of state-operated institutions; prescribe their functions, powers and duties: appoint or provide for the appointment of instructional and administrative staffs (§355(2)(g))
- Acquire interests in real or personal property for the University by purchase, appropriation or lease (§355(2)(a))
- Appoint police officers (§355(2)(l))
- Name and rename state-operated institutions (§355(2)(m))
- Conduct or authorize research at state-operated institutions or at commercial locations (§355(2)(o))
- Establish a patent policy (§355(3))
- Accept gifts, grants, bequests and devises on behalf of the University (§355(2)(a))
- Grant degrees, diplomas and certificates upon completion of courses of study in state-operated institutions (§355(2)(f)).
- Regulate admission of students and qualifications for continued attendance (§355(2)(h))
- Regulate tuition, and other fees and charges (§355(2)(h))
- Prepare and adopt plans for land acquisition, development and expansion, space needs and use, and for construction, reconstruction and improvement of academic buildings and other facilities (§§355(2)(q), 374, 376)
- Directly dispose of or convey certain real property deemed no longer necessary for needs of the University, to former owner (§307(14)).
- Regulate traffic on University facilities (§360)
- Adopt rules and regulations for the governing of the State University, including maintenance of public order affecting students, faculty, staff, visitors, licensees and invitees (§§355(2)(b), 6430)

Personnel Functions:

- Classify and reclassify positions in the University professional service (§355-a(1)(a); Civil Service Law §35(h))
- Fix compensation of management/confidential employees in professional service of the University (§353(3))
- Fix compensation of Chancellor, campus presidents and senior University officers (Executive Law §169)
- Determine procedures for promotion, transfer from one state-operated institution to another, to grant leaves of absence, to establish regulations for adjustment and payment of salaries of professional service employees (§§355-a(8)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f))