

LOCAL BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

The citizens in my community have elected me to represent them. As a member of the UNMG Local Board, I will strive to improve higher education for all UNMG students and to that end, I will:

1. Attend all scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible and will come to each meeting prepared and ready to debate issues fully and openly;
2. Recognize that I have no legal authority outside the Board meetings and that all decisions of the Board will be made at a public meeting; to conduct my relationships with the community college staff, the local citizenry, and all media of the community on the basis of this fact; remember that the board derives its authority from the community; and that it must always act as an advocate on behalf of the entire community;
3. Work in harmony with my fellow members of the Board to always promote cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debates of points of issue and preserve the integrity of the Board;
4. Avoid speaking on behalf of the Board except at those times when the Board, by official action, authorizes me to do so, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
5. Upgrade my performance as a Board member by informing myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs provided by the State and National Community College Trustees Associations, and by engaging in a regular and ongoing process of training and continuous improvement;
6. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school faculty and staff and make every effort to ascertain that all employees are properly remunerated for their services and that they are dealt with fairly in the performance of their duties;
7. Avoid temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a community college board member to benefit myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the community college district;
8. Accept that my primary function is to oversee the policies by which UNMG is administered; and that the actual administration of the education programs is delegated to the Executive Director and her/his staff while creating and maintaining a spirit of true cooperation and a mutually supportive relationship with the Executive Director;
9. Welcome and encourage active participation and cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media with respect to current college operations and proposed future developments, for a better understanding of their needs and improvement of relations with the public that I serve;
10. Remember that it is as important for the board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the community college as it is to plan for the business of college operation;
11. Bear in mind that once a decision is made that the board speaks with one voice.
12. Finally, strive step by step toward ideal conditions for the most effective community college board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and the perpetuation of our representative democracy.

PASSED by the UNM Gallup Local Board, this _____ day of _____, _____.

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Member

Member