

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Mission Statements

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Currently, Board policy provides that institutional strategic plans must be approved by the Board at least every six years. Typically, the institutions have included their mission statement in their strategic plans and, therefore; the mission statements received de facto approval under the approval of the overall strategic plan. In recent years, institutional mission statements have come forward independently for review and approval at the request of the Board, and the institutions have since followed suit by bringing forward for Board approval any revisions to their mission statements. Further, for accreditation purposes, the Northwest Accreditation Commission requires the mission statements be approved by the governing entity.

The Academic Affairs Council recommends that the Board's policy on institutional strategic plans be clarified by requiring the approval of mission statements, in addition to the institutional strategic plan, on at least a seven year basis in alignment with the seven year accreditation cycle. The proposal as written will still allow the institutions to bring forward for approval institutional mission statements and strategic plans at anytime during the seven year period if they so desire.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3* to provide that institutional mission statements, in addition to institutional strategic plans, require Board approval. Further, align the cycle of approval for institutional mission statements and strategic plans with the seven year accreditation cycle. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This request is brought forward following the discussion and recommendation of the Academic Affairs Council.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, this policy revision will:

- Clarify for accreditation purposes that mission statements require Board approval – also in accordance with current practice; and
- Align the approval of institutional mission statements and strategic plans with the seven year accreditation cycle.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Maintain the current policy requiring approval of institutional strategic plans only.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 3*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No__X__
Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 3 (in part)
Institutional Strategic Plans

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 3. Institutional Strategic Plans

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2. Institutional strategic plans *and mission statements* for each NSHE institution, including the Desert Research Institute, shall be presented *for consideration* to the Board of Regents at least every [~~six~~] *seven* years and will cover a planning period of up to [~~six~~] *seven* years. Updates concerning progress toward major goals and the revision of existing goals may come before the Board at any time during the [~~six~~] *seven* year planning period as determined appropriate by the institution.

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