

GOVERNANCE PROCESS

The board may establish committees to help carry out its responsibilities. Committees will be used so as to minimally interfere with the wholeness of the board's job, and so as never to interfere with delegation from board to Executive Director.

1. Board committees may not speak or act for the board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the Executive Director.
2. Board committees are to help the board do its job, not to help the staff do its jobs. Committees ordinarily will assist the board by preparing policy alternatives and implications for board deliberation. Board committees are not to be created by the board to advise staff.
3. Board committees are to avoid over-identification with organizational parts rather than the whole. Therefore, a board committee which has helped the board create policy on some topic will not be used to monitor implementation and development of that policy.
4. Board committees cannot exercise authority over staff. In keeping with the board's broader focus, board committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations. Because the Executive Director works for the full board, he or she will not be required to obtain approval of a board committee before an executive action.
5. This policy applies only to committees which are formed by board action, whether or not the committees include non-board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the Executive Director.