

GP 1 **Governing Style**

Adopted: 9/21/06 (unofficially)

Revised: 8/19/09

Monitored: March

The board will govern with a style that promotes vision, strategic leadership, collective decision-making, and respect for each other and designated roles.

- GP 1.1 The board will inspire and direct the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the board's values and perspectives. Major policy focus for the board will be on long-term organizational ends rather than the means of attaining them.
- GP 1.2 The board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The board will not substitute individual judgments for the board's values, but will use individual members' expertise to enhance the ability of the board. The board will allow no officer, individual, or committee of the board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling board commitments.
- GP 1.3 The board will encourage open discussion and diverse points of view. When disagreements occur, board members will discuss them respectfully and attempt to reach consensus. If consensus can't be reached, a majority vote will resolve the issue. All individuals must abide by the final group decision.
- GP 1.4 The board will monitor and discuss the board's process and performance at each meeting. Self-monitoring will include comparison of board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-GM Linkage categories, as well as whether the actual wording of the policies accurately represents the values of the board. The board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation, policy-making principles, respect of roles, and ensuring continuance of governance capability. (See Appendix: Annual Agenda Cycle and Monitoring Schedule, and Monitoring Report Guidelines.)

GP 1.4.1 In the event that a scheduled monitoring task is missed, it will be assumed that the missed task will be completed for the next regular meeting of the board by the appointed person(s). The board may decide to reschedule or reassign the task in a different manner on a case-by-case basis.

GP 1.5 Continual board development will include orientation of new board members in the board's governance process and periodic board discussion of governance improvement.