

**WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**  
(Amended May 15, 1998)

Preamble:

Recognizing its authority to do so under KRS 164.350 and realizing the significance of serving on the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University, the Board of Regents adopts this Code of Conduct to insure the fulfillment of its obligations and duties to the University, the students, and the community. The Board agrees that in performing its duties as Regents for Western Kentucky University, it will adhere to the following principles:

1. To accept the spirit of academic freedom and shared governance as fundamental characteristics of University governance.
2. To become familiar with, committed to, and abide by the major responsibilities of this governing board, as set out in the Bylaws of the Western Kentucky University and the Kentucky Revised Statutes, including:
  - a. To preserve institutional autonomy;
  - b. To enhance the public image and interpret the community to the institution;
  - c. To support the President in his or her fulfillment of the objectives and policies of the Board of Regents .
3. To avoid participation in the administration of policy developed by the Board.
4. To vote and speak according to one's individual conviction, and yet to be willing to support the majority decision of the Board and work with fellow Board members in a spirit of cooperation, and to avoid acting as a spokesperson for the entire Board unless specifically authorized to do so.
5. To maintain the confidentiality of discussions between individual Board members, when requested to do so by a fellow Board member.
6. To support University fund-raising efforts through personal giving in accordance with one's means (both annual and capital drives), and to be willing to share in the solicitation of others.
7. To make judgments always on the basis of what is best for the Institution as a whole and for the advancement of higher education rather than to serve special interests, including:

- a. Insuring that any relationships that could be perceived as conflicts of interest are to the distinct and obvious advantage of the University;
  - b. Refraining from those actions and involvements that might prove embarrassing to the University; and,
  - c. Resigning from the Board if such actions or involvements develop.
8. To prepare carefully for, regularly attend, and actively participate in Board meetings and committee assignments.
  9. To understand that the President is the exclusive agent of the Board in the conduct of all University affairs and for the conduct of Board business.

An alleged violation may be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Board. The Chair may, in his/her discretion, perform or request an investigation of the alleged violation consistent with the principles of due process, and may recommend appropriate action be taken by the Board on the violation, if substantiated.