

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Board of Regents
Protocol

Members of the Board of Regents have been asked to assume the special responsibility and honor of promoting and acting in the best interests of Morgan State University. The manner in which those responsibilities are performed by those invited to serve in this capacity is directly related to the University's continued vitality and strength.

As the governing body of Morgan State University, the Board is a vital communication link with the University's internal and external constituencies and the effectiveness of its communication processes is essential. Regents must be aware that their comments and utterances have the potential of significantly influencing the attitude, behavior, and decisions of others and could easily place the University at great disadvantage if discretion is not exercised at all times. Therefore, communications from the Board to members of the legislature, the press and the public shall be transmitted by and through the Board Chair. Inquiries in regard to matters upon which the Board has taken, or probably will take a position, shall be referred to the Chair.

It is in the University's best interest that the nature and content of Board decisions are communicated to internal and external constituencies in a precise and unified manner. The Board's deliberative and decision-making processes provide opportunities for discourse on issues before the Board and the quality of the Board's ultimate decisions is enhanced by the contributions of its individual members. Once the deliberative process has ended and the Board has collectively made a decision, individual members of the Board are expected to support the decision of the Board as whole. Therefore, no member of the Board should publicly challenge any collective decision of the Board and/or any act of Board officers or the administration which is consistent with those decisions. The Regents are responsible for the developing University policies and should avoid involvement in the administration of those policies. In carrying out any policy established by the Board, except in so far as the method shall be defined by the Board, the method of execution shall be within the discretion of the President.

Regents at all times have a fiduciary duty to serve the best interests of the University as a whole, rather than any personal interest or that of a particular internal or external constituency. In this regard, Regents should avoid any situation that could cause even the appearance of a conflict of interest and any potential or actual conflict should be disclosed to the Board Chair.

It is not in the University's best interests for individual members of the Board to issue personal statements regarding Board-related matters but in cases where an individual member of the Board feels unable to refrain from issuing personal statements regarding Board-related matters, the member should either support the position taken by the Board or make it perfectly clear that he or she is expressing a personal opinion which has not been approved and is not endorsed by the Board. Regents should maintain the confidentiality of the information conveyed in any Board executive session. In addition, Regents should not make judgments on the basis of information received from individuals or groups who have a perceived or real grievance or particular cause. In addition, Board members have a duty to refer such information or communications to the Board Chair for proper action.