

## **Brock University Board of Trustees Expectations of Individual Trustees**

### **Preamble**

The formal corporate responsibilities and authority of the Board of Trustees and the University Senate as governing bodies are outlined in the *Brock University Act* and reflected in the *General Bylaws of the Board of Trustees* and the *Faculty Handbook*. Both governing bodies have distinct roles and responsibilities in a bicameral system of governance within the University as outlined in the *Brock University Act*.

Along with the formal roles of the governing bodies are an additional set of responsibilities regarding the expectations of individual members of the Board which support the corporate governance structure. Since the University, among other things, has a mandate to serve the public good, individual Trustees, particularly the lay Trustees, fulfill an important role in society by helping the University understand its role in serving and upholding this broader public good, the public trust and the public interest. These accountabilities are reflected in the sections below which outline the expectations of the individual Board member.

### **Expectations of Individual Trustees in Fulfilling their Responsibilities**

1. Participate in setting long-term strategic direction and goals of the University;
2. Understand the University's mission, strategic plan, and its culture, and promote these to the external community;
3. Support the mission of the University;
4. Work to enhance the public image of the University;
5. Seek to be informed about the University and the role of higher education in the province, Canada and beyond, and understand the role of government in higher education;
6. Monitor achievement of the University's mission and goals;
7. Ensure the financial health of the University and that the allocation of resources are consistent with its mission;
8. Defend the University's autonomy and bi-cameral system of governance and its approved processes;
9. Advocate on behalf of the University in the external community and advocate on behalf of the community to the University;
10. Provide the administrative team with the support, authority and responsibility they require;
11. Respect the difference between policy (Board's responsibility), administration (President's responsibility) and educational policy (Senate's responsibility);
12. Recognize that the President (or delegate) is the primary spokesperson for the University and that the Board Chair (or delegate) is the primary spokesperson for the Board;
13. Encourage, foster and participate in fund raising;
14. Set policy for the conduct of Board and University affairs;
15. Commit the necessary time and effort;
16. Discuss issues frankly and support the will of the majority after a vote is taken;
17. Monitor the effectiveness of the Board and Trustees;
18. Adhere to the Individual Trustee Code of Conduct.

(Approved by the Board on June 28, 2007)  
(Revised February 26, 2009, March 11, 2015)