PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board of Directors, with the exception of executive sessions, will be open to the public. The board invites citizens to attend Board meetings to become acquainted with the program and operation of the College. Members of the public also are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the Board when appropriate.

It is the intent of the Board to ensure communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal communications with others. Individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments will be given an equal opportunity to participate in Board meetings. Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary* aids and services.

Auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons will be available at no charge to the individual.

All auxiliary aids and /or service requests must be made with appropriate advance notice. Should the Board demonstrate such requests would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens, alternative, equally effective means of communication will be used.

Audience

During an open session of a Board meeting, members of the public are specifically invited to present concerns during the designated portion of the agenda. At the discretion of the Board chair, further public participation may be allowed.

The Board may exclude from any such public or private meeting, during the examination of a witness, any or all other witness in the matter being investigated by the legislative body.

Request for an Item on the Agenda

A member of the public may request that the President place an item of concern on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the President to the President for consideration at least ten working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

(Continued)
Procedures for Public Participation in Meetings

The Board will establish procedures for public participation in open meetings. The purpose of these procedures will be to inform the public how to effectively participate in board meetings for the best interests of the individual, the College and its patrons. The information will be easily accessible and available to all patrons attending a public Board meeting.

Discussion or presentation concerning a published agenda item is limited to its designated place on the agenda, unless otherwise authorized by the Board chair.

The order of business of any official meeting will include an opportunity for the public to address the Board on any item of business which is included in the agenda. The Board, however, does not obligate itself to act upon any request or proposal.

A visitor speaking during the meeting may introduce a topic not on the published agenda. The Board, at its discretion, may require that a proposal, inquiry or request be submitted in writing, and reserves the right to refer the matter to the administration for action or study.

Any person who is invited by the Board chair to speak to the Board during a meeting should state his/her name and address and, if speaking for an organization, the name and identity of the organization. A spokesperson should be designated to represent a group with a common purpose.

Statements by members of the public should be brief and concise. The Board chair may use discretion to establish a time limit on discussion or oral presentation by visitors.

Questions asked by the public, when possible, will be answered immediately by the Board chair or referred to staff members for reply. Questions requiring investigation may, at the discretion of the Board chair, be referred to the President for response at a later time.

At the discretion of the Board chair, anyone wishing to speak before the Board, either as an individual or as a member of a group, on any agenda item or other topic, may do so by providing the Board secretary with a completed registration card prior to the Board meeting in order to allow the Board chair to provide adequate time for each agenda item.

Petitions

Petitions may be accepted at any Board meeting. No action will be taken in response to a petition before the next regular meeting. Petitions will be referred to the President for consideration and recommendation.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS – 1.145 (cont’d)

Criticisms of Staff Members

Speakers may offer objective criticism of college operations and programs, but the Board will not hear complaints concerning individual College personnel. The Board chair will direct the visitor to the appropriate means for Board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

END OF POLICY

Legal References:

ORS 192.610-192.690
ORS 332.057
ORS 332.065


* Auxiliary aids include, but are not limited to such services and devices as qualified interpreters, assistive systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Brailled materials and large print.