**Sample 4: Accreditation Standards as Criteria**

Every six years, colleges undergo the reaccreditation process, which involves a self-study of colleges’ compliance with accreditation standards and a visit by an accreditation team that results in recommendations from the Commission. As part of the self-study, the board may wish to use the standards that apply to the board as criteria in an evaluation instrument. Following is a sample instrument, using criteria from Standard IV.C and other standards that reflect board roles.

A suggested rating scale is:

 3 The board fully meets the standard

 2 The board partially meets the standard

 1 The board does not meet the standard

Results with less than a three indicate areas for remediation prior to the team visit.

**Criteria**

1. The institution has a governing board that has authority over and responsibility for policies to assure the academic quality, integrity, and effectiveness of the student learning programs and services and the financial stability of the institution.
2. The governing board acts as a collective entity. Once the board reaches a decision, all board members act in support of the decision.
3. The governing board adheres to a clearly defined policy for selecting and evaluating the CEO of the college or the district/system.
4. The governing board is an independent policy-making body that reflects the public interest in the institution’s educational quality, advocates for, defends, and protects the institution from undue influence or political pressure.
5. The governing board establishes policies consistent with the college/district/system mission to ensure the quality, integrity, and improvement of student learning programs and services and the resources necessary to support them.
6. The governing board has ultimate responsibility for educational quality, legal matters, and financial integrity and stability.
7. The institution or the governing board publishes the board bylaws and policies specifying the board’s size, duties, responsibilities, structure, and operating procedures.
8. The governing board acts in a manner consistent with its policies and bylaws. The board regularly assesses its policies and bylaws for their effectiveness in fulfilling the college/district/system mission and revises them as necessary.
9. To ensure the institution is accomplishing its goals for student success, the governing board regularly reviews key indicators of student learning and achievement and institutional plans for achieving institutional quality.
10. The governing board has an ongoing training program for board development including new member orientation.
11. Board policies and/or bylaws clearly establish a process for board evaluation. The evaluation assesses the board’s effectiveness in promoting and sustaining academic quality and institutional effectiveness. The results are used to improve board performance, academic quality and institutional effectiveness.
12. The governing board has code of ethics and conflicts of interest policies, and individual board members adhere to them. The board has a clearly defined policy for dealing with behavior that violates its code and implements it when necessary.
13. The governing board delegates full responsibility and authority to the CEO to implement and administer board policies without board interference and holds the CEO accountable for the operation of the district.
14. The governing board is informed about accreditation processes and standards and participates in the evaluation of governing board roles and functions. It supports through policy district efforts to excel.
15. The board regularly reviews and approves the mission to assure that programs and services are aligned with the mission, and that it guides decision-making and planning.
16. The board adopts policies on academic freedom and responsibility, honesty and academic integrity.
17. The board has adopted personnel policies that are available for information and review. Such policies are equitably and consistently administered.
18. The board has policies that create and maintain support for diverse personnel.
19. The board has policies that provide for administrator, faculty, and staff participation in decision-making processes, which specify how individuals bring forward ideas and work together.