Guideline

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|  Principles of Governance and Board Accountability  | Class: A |
| Approved By: | Board of Directors |
| Approval Date: | 2013 03 20 | Effective Date: | 2008 09 17 | Review Date: | 5 years |
| Responsible Portfolio/Unit/ Committee: | Governance Committee |
| Responsible Officer(s): | Governance Committee Chair |

1. The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is incorporated under the Laws of Ontario as an independently governed Medical School under the auspices of Lakehead University and Laurentian University (the Universities) as a shared initiative to operate and maintain a medical school responsive to the needs of the people of Northern Ontario.
2. The Board of Directors (Board) governs NOSM through the direction and supervision of the business and affairs of the corporation in accordance with its bylaws, vision, mission and values, governance policies, applicable laws and regulations and articles of incorporation.

1. The Board adheres to a model of good governance through which it provides strategic leadership and direction to NOSM by establishing policies, making governance decisions and monitoring performance related to the key dimensions of NOSM’s mission and mandate, as well as its own effectiveness.
2. The Board acts at all times in the best interests of NOSM, having regard for its accountabilities to the Universities, its undergraduate and post-graduate learners, the people and communities of Northern Ontario and the Government of Ontario. The Board understands the best interests of NOSM to include the unique integrated relationship with the Universities.
3. The Board maintains an environment based on the values as approved by the Board and seeks to find a consensus among directors in its approach to decision-making, based on open discussion, evidence and best practice, while respecting and valuing dissenting views.
4. The Board adheres to the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of Social Accountability through the “obligation to direct their education, research and service activities towards addressing the priority health concerns of the community, region and the nation that they have the mandate to serve”.
5. The Board maintains at all times a clear distinction between the governance and operations of NOSM, while recognizing the interdependencies between them.

The Board is accountable to:

* the Universities for:
* providing graduate and post-graduate health professional education programs with a primary focus on those programs that are innovative and responsive to the individual needs of learners and the healthcare needs of Northern Ontario;
* advancing the highest quality of learning, teaching, research and professionalism;
* contributing to the advancement of medical education and healthcare services in Northern Ontario and in the Ontario, Canadian and global contexts with particular focus on the unique healthcare needs of the people who live in the communities of Northern Ontario; and
* earning international recognition as a leader in distributed, learning- centred, community engaged education and research;
* maintaining quality performance standards and medical school accreditation; and
* recognizing the integral role of the Universities in its operations.
* the Learners at NOSM for:
* providing quality health professional education to all Learners;
* facilitating learner appreciation of the opportunities for quality educational and professional medical careers in ruraland northern regions of Ontario with a focus on Northern Ontario and its communities’ healthcare needs.
* the People of Northern Ontario for:
* building relationships and collaborating with municipalities, health service providers and the broader community to identify opportunities to enhance the provision of health services in Northern Ontario;
* actively involving Aboriginal, Francophone, remote, rural and underserviced communities and recognizing their special health needs;
* engaging stakeholders when developing plans and setting priorities.
* the Government of Ontario, primarily through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), for:
* compliance with government regulations, and directions;
* ensuring that NOSM operates in a manner that is consistent with provincial policies,
* operating in a fiscally sustainable manner within its resource envelope and utilizing its resources efficiently and effectively to fulfill the NOSM mission and mandate.

| Version | Date | Authors/Comments |
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| 1.0 | 2008 09 17 | Original Version |
| 2.0 | 2013 03 20 | Revisions – Governance Review recommendations |
| 2.1 | 2019 02 20 | Updated template per COO – no content changes - |