

## **Public Comment in Board Meeting**

All meetings of the Board, 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 opportunity to participate in Board meetings. Primary consideration will be given to requests of qualified individuals with disabilities in selecting appropriate auxiliary aids<sup>1</sup> 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 comment 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 executive session, during the examination of a witness, any or all other witnesses in the matter being investigated by the Board.

### **Request for an Item on the Agenda**

A member of the public may request the President to consider an item of concern to be placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting. This request should be made in writing and presented to the President for consideration.

### **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 comment in Board meetings for the best

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<sup>1</sup>Auxiliary aids include, but are not limited to, such services and devices as qualified interpreters, assistive listening systems, note takers, readers, taped texts, Brailled materials and large print.

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.

### **Letters, Petitions or Written Comments**

Letters, petitions or written comments may be accepted at any Board meeting. No action will be taken in response to a letter, petition or written comments before the next regular meeting. Letters, petitions or written comments will be referred to the President for consideration and recommendation.

### **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

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#### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 165.535](#)

[ORS 165.540](#)

[ORS 192.610 - 192.690](#)

[ORS 341.283](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630; 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

#### **Cross Reference(s):**

BDDC - Board Meeting Agenda