

DRAFT
DQU BOARD POLICY ON BOARD MEMBER
CONTACTS WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS

BECAUSE DQ UNIVERSITY is a small school with a relatively small number of staff and students, some Board members might be tempted at times to interact with the former in very informal ways, forgetting that Board members occupy a unique position in governance, with authority affecting each and every staff member and student.

Because the Board is in need of information in order to make decisions, Board members, with the permission of the chair or vice-chair, should be able to speak with staff and students in order to obtain information about financial matters, student records, course offerings, and other important issues. This should be done, when possible, with the knowledge of the President or Interim President as a courtesy and also in order not to undermine the latter's authority.

In no case, however, should Board members pass information on to staff or students. The route from the Board to the latter is via the President or Interim President. Board members should never discuss divisions within the Board or emerging Board policy or hiring or lay-off matters with any staff or students, et cetera. It is very damaging to discuss rumors which may prove to be unfounded and which may damage morale, or which may be used by one faction against another, or by one staff person against another. It is also dangerous to discuss any actions which could, theoretically, result in legal proceedings and which might cause the destruction of evidence or otherwise interfere with the job of the President and Board.

Board members may not always be aware of the factions which may exist among staff and students, or of the ambitions of particular individuals, and it is harmful to pass on information which may, inadvertently be used to further interpersonal intrigues or other problems at staff or student levels.

Therefore, this policy is adopted by the DQU Board of Trustees, this – day of June, 2004. [Proposal to avoid problems faced when a board member becomes part of a student or staff faction, or when board members cannot find out from the president what the actual financial situation of the university is like. Never adopted.]