

**UUA GOVERNANCE MANUAL**  
**SECTION 4: BOARD-PRESIDENT LINKAGE**

*Note: Document revision history is found at the end of this document.*

**SECTION 4: BOARD-PRESIDENT LINKAGE**

**4.0 POLICY TITLE: *GLOBAL BOARD-PRESIDENT LINKAGE***

The Board's sole official connection to the operational organization, its achievements and conduct will be through a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), titled President.

**4.1 Unity of Control:** Only policies adopted by officially passed motions of the Board are binding on the President.

**4.2 Accountability of the President:** The President is the Board's only link to operational achievement and conduct, so that all authority and accountability of staff, as far as the Board is concerned, is considered the authority and accountability of the President.

**4.3 Delegation to the President:** The Board will direct the President through written policies which prescribe the organizational ENDS to be achieved, and describe organizational situations and actions to be avoided, allowing the President to use any reasonable interpretation of these policies.

**4.4 Monitoring President Performance:** Systematic and rigorous monitoring of President job performance will be solely against the only expected President job outputs: organizational accomplishment of the Shared Vision (ENDS), and organizational operation within the boundaries established in Board policies on Leadership Covenant and Expectations.

**4.5 President Compensation And Benefits:** The Board shall negotiate a contract with the President that will stipulate compensation and benefits for the President.

**4.1 POLICY TITLE: *UNITY OF CONTROL***

Only officially passed motions of the Board are binding on the President.

Accordingly:

1. Decisions or instructions of individual Trustees, officers, or committees are not binding on the President except in rare instances when the Board has specifically authorized such exercise of authority.
2. In the case of Trustees or committees requesting information or assistance without Board authorization, the President can refuse such requests that

**UUA GOVERNANCE MANUAL**  
**SECTION 4: BOARD-PRESIDENT LINKAGE**

require, in the President's opinion, a material amount of staff time or funds or is disruptive.

**4.2 POLICY TITLE: *ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT***

The President is the Board's only link to operational achievement and conduct, so that all authority and accountability of staff, as far as the Board is concerned, is considered the authority and accountability of the President.

Accordingly:

1. The Board will never give instructions to persons who report directly or indirectly to the President.
2. The Board will not evaluate, either formally or informally, any staff other than the President.
3. The Board will view President performance as identical to organizational performance, so that organizational accomplishment of Board stated Ends and avoidance of Board proscribed means will be viewed as successful President performance.

**4.3 POLICY TITLE: *DELEGATION TO THE PRESIDENT***

The Board will direct the President through written policies that prescribe the Shared Vision (ENDS) to be achieved, and describe organizational situations and actions to be avoided, allowing the President to use any reasonable interpretation of these policies.

Accordingly:

1. The Board will develop policies instructing the President to achieve certain results, for certain recipients at a specified cost. These policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels, and will be called the Shared Vision (Ends).
2. The Board will develop policies that limit the latitude the President may exercise in choosing the organizational means. These policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels, and they will be called Leadership Covenant and Expectations policies (Executive Limitations).
3. Only the Board may determine what constitutes a reasonable interpretation of its policies. As long as the President uses any reasonable interpretation of the Board's Shared Vision the President is authorized to establish all further policies, make all decisions, take all actions, establish all practices and develop all activities.
4. The Board may change its Shared Vision (Ends) and Leadership Covenant and Expectations policies, thereby shifting the boundary between Board and President domains. By doing so, the Board changes the latitude of choice given to the President. But as long as any particular delegation is in place, the Board will respect and support the President's choices.

**UUA GOVERNANCE MANUAL**  
**SECTION 4: BOARD-PRESIDENT LINKAGE**

**4.4 POLICY TITLE: *MONITORING PRESIDENT PERFORMANCE***

Systematic and rigorous monitoring of President job performance will be solely against the only expected President job outputs: organizational accomplishment of the Shared Vision (Ends) as defined by Board policies, and organizational operation within the boundaries established in Board policies on Leadership Covenant and Expectations.

Accordingly:

1. Monitoring is to determine the degree to which Board policies are being met. Data that do not do this will not be considered to be monitoring data.
2. The Board will acquire monitoring data by one or more of three methods: (a) by internal report, in which the President discloses compliance information to the Board, (b) by external report, in which an external, disinterested third party selected by the Board assesses compliance with Board policies, and (c) by direct Board inspection, in which a designated Trustee or Trustees assess compliance with the appropriate policy criteria.
3. In every case, the standard for compliance shall be *any reasonable interpretation by the President* of the Board policy being monitored. Only the Board may decide what constitutes a reasonable interpretation.
4. All policies that instruct the President will be monitored at a frequency and by a method chosen by the Board. The Board can monitor any policy at any time by any method, but will ordinarily depend on a routine schedule, following the monitoring schedule in Appendix 3.A.

**4.5 POLICY TITLE: *PRESIDENT COMPENSATION & BENEFITS***

The Board shall negotiate a contract with the President that will stipulate compensation and benefits for the President.

President's compensation and benefits will be reviewed in each calendar year after a review of monitoring reports received in the prior twelve months.

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**Document Revision History:**

1. April 2008: This document was affirmed by the Board of Trustees for its first posting on the UUA.ORG at the meeting of April 2008.
2. April 2009:
  - a. Changed the word "instruct" to "direct" in the delegation to the President.
  - b. Changed "member" to "Trustee" where appropriate.