

Committee Report

Committee Name: Governance Committee

Date of Report: September 14, 2020

Written/submitted by: Becky Lund

Date of last meeting: September 14, 2020

Next meeting date: Monday, October 12, 2020

Motions/ Action Items for the September Board Meeting:

FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Accept the 2020 Election Report (due to the Board by October of each year)
- II. 2nd reading/ potential approval of NEW policy– Tele-related Services to be assigned policy number NP-503
- III. 1st reading of REPLACEMENT policy 522 – Title IX Policy (this would replace our current policy 522 – Student Sex Nondiscrimination)

Notes: Regarding the recommended replacement policy, the following was sent to Dr. Wedlund on August 13, 2020 from the Minnesota School Board Association:

On May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), released the long-awaited final rule amending Title IX regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 106. These regulations, which go into effect on August 14, 2020, are the first Title IX regulations applicable to sexual harassment and are applicable to complaints by both school district students and employees.

The extensive regulations will require districts to revise their policies and procedures with respect to sexual harassment and ensure that administration and staff are trained on the new requirements.

The timing of the Title IX changes has created substantial reaction.

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) submitted a detailed letter to the U.S. Department of Education requesting it delay the implementation date. [NSBA's letter](#) notes concerns expressed by member state associations and COSA attorneys “that absent an extension of the effective date, the three-month implementation timeframe unduly burdens public school systems at an unprecedented time. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, school districts are grappling with novel operational challenges as they work to reopen schools safely in the fall. Consistent with state and national expectations, the sole priority for most school districts is to reopen schools safely for direct instruction. By requiring full compliance with the drastically amended Title IX Rule by August 14, 2020, the Department is forcing schools to redirect significant time and attention from more imminent health and safety concerns.”

As of August 13, MSBA has not received word whether the U.S. Department of Education planned to delay implementation. School districts must comply with the Final Rule beginning on August 14.

Accordingly, school districts are encouraged to adopt the policy in a reasonable timeframe in light of school reopening and other critically important challenges that they face. However, districts should not wait until the policy is adopted to begin complying with the policy. Each school district should identify the individuals who will serve as the district's Title IX Personnel and secure appropriate training for them reasonably soon, and if a school district learns of sexual harassment allegations on or after August 14, 2020, the district's response should adhere to the policy even if issue arises before the policy has been adopted by the school district.

Governance Committee Goals for 2020-2021

1. Work with the Executive Director to review and recommend policies that support Nova's mission.

- a. Finish reviewing policies from SY2020
 - i. 2 policies (done by October 2020)
- b. Review policies last reviewed/revised in 2017-2018
 - i. 16 policies (done by June 2021)
- c. Continue to work on policy process to ensure smooth oversight and revision as needed (ongoing)

While the GC will continue to work on policies, we are going to slow down the review process as many of the policies up for review this year require significant input from the Administration (such as the Transportation Policy or our Enrollment Policies), which is not the best use of the Administration's time at this moment.

2. Provide the 2020 Election Report and conduct the 2021 board election.

(report due October 2020, election work begins December 2020 and ends May 2021)

- a. Continue a more robust and in-person recruiting of potential Board members, beginning with people serving on Board committees (December – March in particular)

We are submitting the 2020 Election Report for Board approval at the September board meeting, a month ahead of schedule.

3. Implement and update the board training process

- a. Review and revise as needed the documents that pass on best practices and general knowledge to form a complete Board resource specific to Nova
 - i. Develop a regular review process for the documents and add to a Governance calendar
 - ii. Update document
- b. Provide training and resources on Nova's governance practices and policies for all Board members as needed. Continue to look at monthly Board meeting evaluations for trends and areas of need (ongoing)
 - i. Ensure the Board training calendar is followed and update it as needed
 - ii. Find ways to share the training information with the Nova community as well as the Board

4. Review the current board structure and recommend potential ways to reduce the size of the Board

- a. Review board structure requirements (MN statute & Nova Bylaws) (November 2020)
- b. Determine parameters for a reduction (best practices, current needs, expiring terms, etc.) (November 2020)
- c. Make a recommendation to the Board for approval BEFORE we publish election materials (done by February 2021; ideally done in January 2021)

We will begin working on this goal at our October GC meeting.