

STANDARDS BOARD BEST PRACTICES

SIZE OF THE BOARD

The Standards process should have an odd number of members (e.g., five), including a chair. Organizations may allow each new member class or class year to select a member to serve on the board. Sample language should be provided for organizations to use about how to replace a member who has a conflict, so the board isn't hearing cases with less than the proscribed number of members.

ELECTION VS. APPOINTMENT

The board can be elected or appointed (with or without ratification by the organization).

Option #1: Organization Election. This option has the most potential for issues, risking potentially problematic organization members directly electing the people who are supposed to hold them accountable.

Option #2: Appointment with Ratification. The organization officers select a slate of standards board members, who the organization can then ratify. Giving the organization the option to vote the whole slate up or down creates some buy-in but also insulates the board from members cherry-picking people who won't hold them accountable.

Option #3: Appointment. Officers appoint the board without organization input. This removes the element of buy-in included in Option #2.

Option #4: The organization elects the chair and the officers appoint the rest of the board (with or without ratification). This gives the organization the chance to choose the chair (if that's how other chairs in the chapter are selected), but then lets the officers balance out the board. The chair doesn't have any special powers, just more responsibilities.

Option #2 is the preferred recommendation, with option #4 as a second alternative.

ADVISORS

Advisors should not serve on the standards board. It's an internal organization conduct board. Advisors should attend standards board meetings and advise the students as they prepare for meetings, deliberate, and discuss outcomes, but should not have a seat on the board. Advisors could serve as an ex-officio member—like a student conduct staff member would be on a university hearing panel. The standards board process shouldn't be so cumbersome that the students can't manage it with mature adult guidance.