



SACS Commission on Colleges

AN OVERVIEW

GOALS OF WORKSHOP

- Understanding the basics of accreditation
- Understanding the structure of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Understanding the role of the institution's board in the accreditation process

TYPES OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

- National Agencies

Accredit institutions of higher education that have a single focus

- Regional Agencies

Accredit all aspects of an institution of higher education in specific regions

- Specialized or Professional Agencies

Accredit programs within institutions

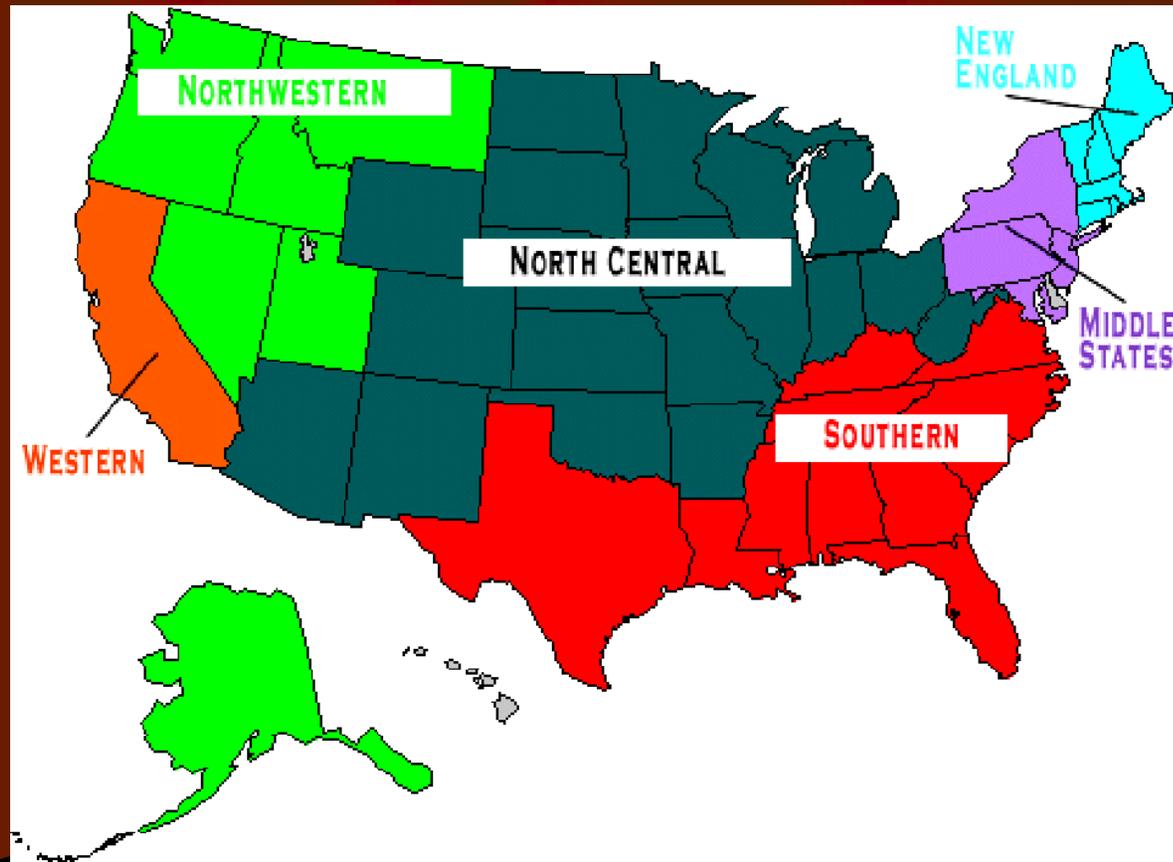
Characteristics of Regional Accreditation

- Comprehensive, Periodic Review
- Focus on Institution-Wide Goals, Processes, Outcomes
- Related to Institutional Purpose and Mission
- Regional in Scope
- Voluntary
- Non-Governmental
- Decentralized National System
- Non-Profit

REGIONAL ACCREDITATION PURPOSES

- Improve Quality throughout the institution
- Assure the public that institutions meet established standards
- Serve as a “gate-keeper” for federal financial aid

SIX REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS



Number of Institutions Accredited

● SACSCOC	804
● North Central	1000+
● Middle States	515
● Western	350 (approx)
● New England	236
● Northwest	156

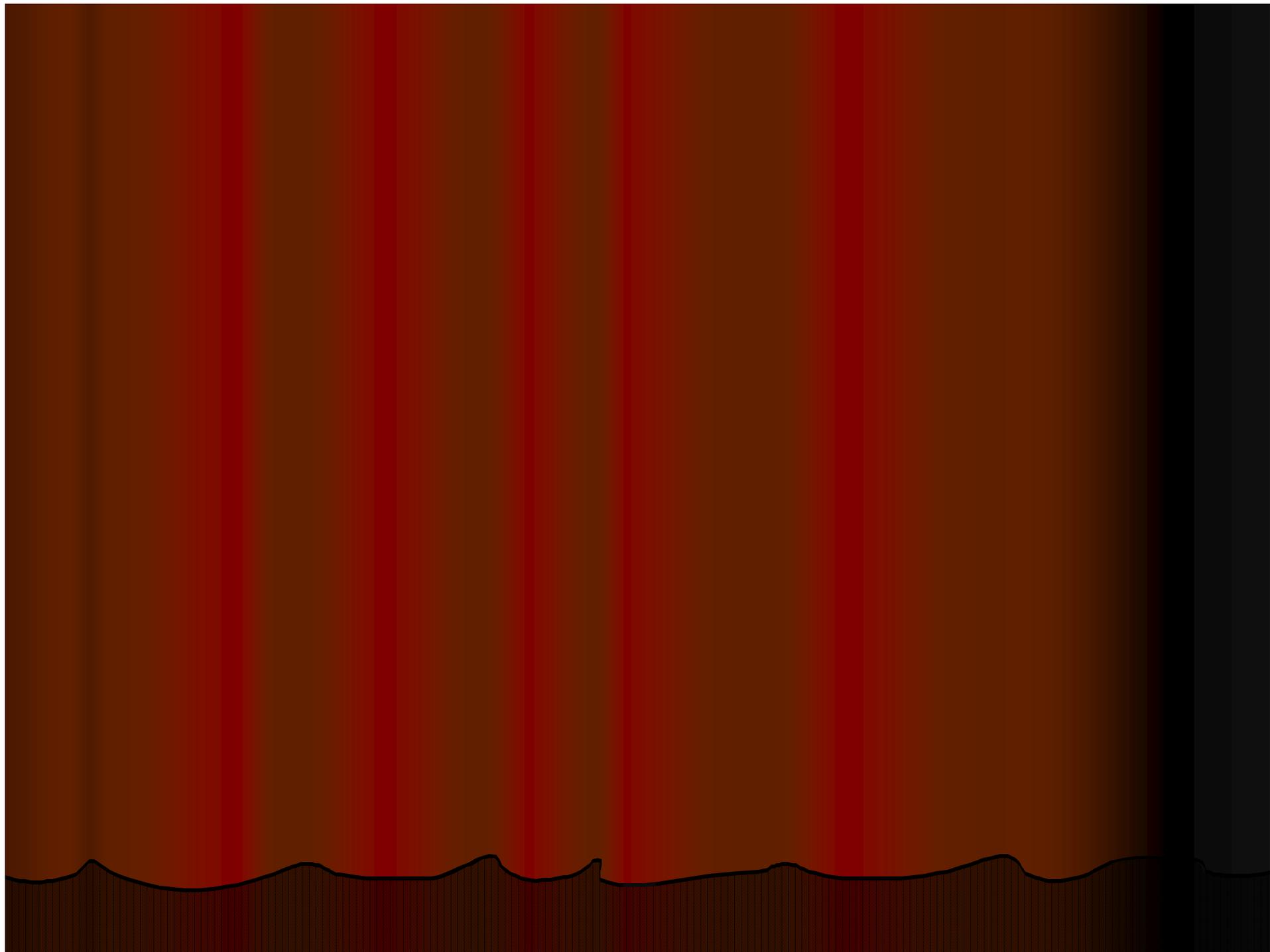
C-RAC

Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions

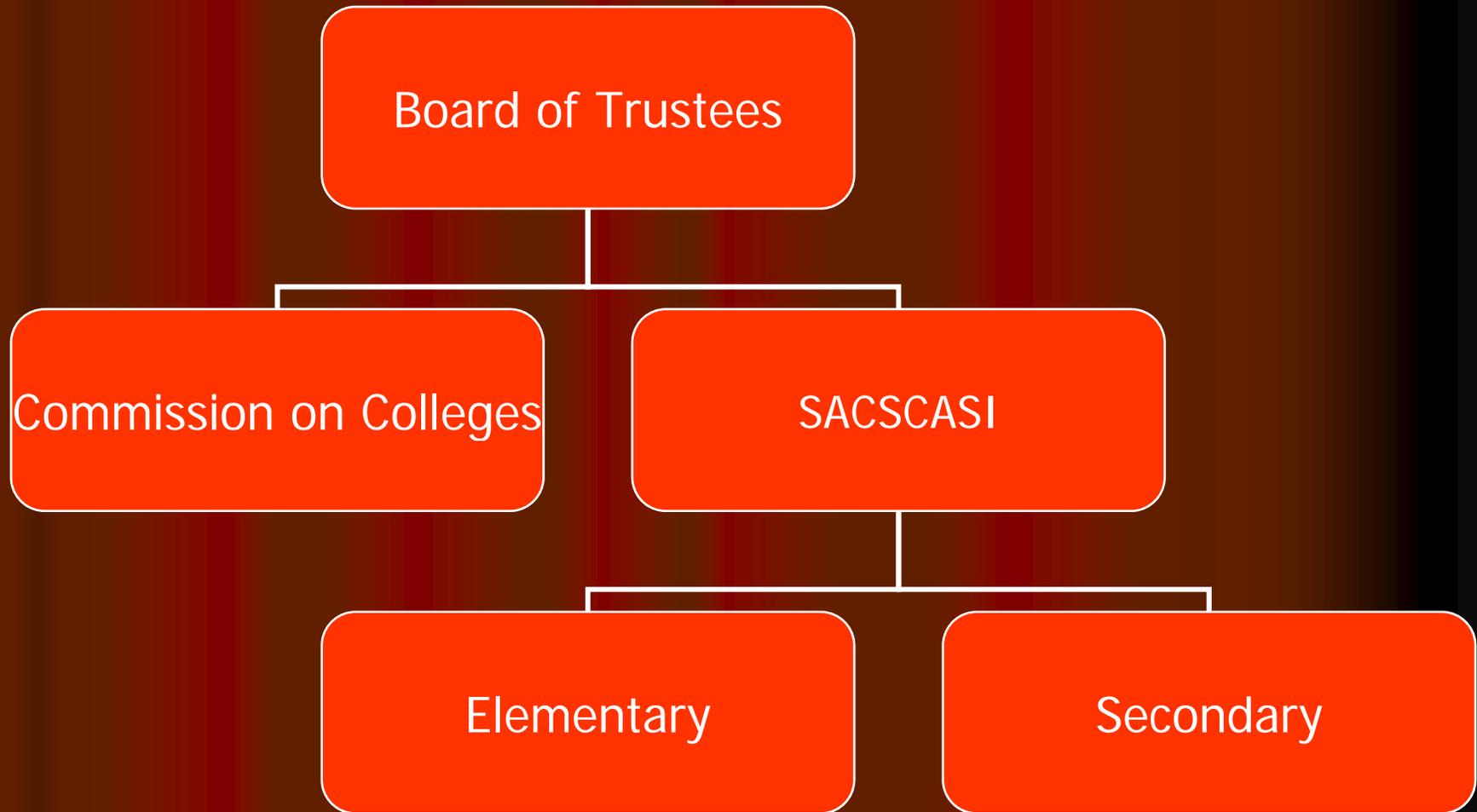
This is a group composed of the presidents of each of the regional accrediting associations.

Oversight of Commission Activities

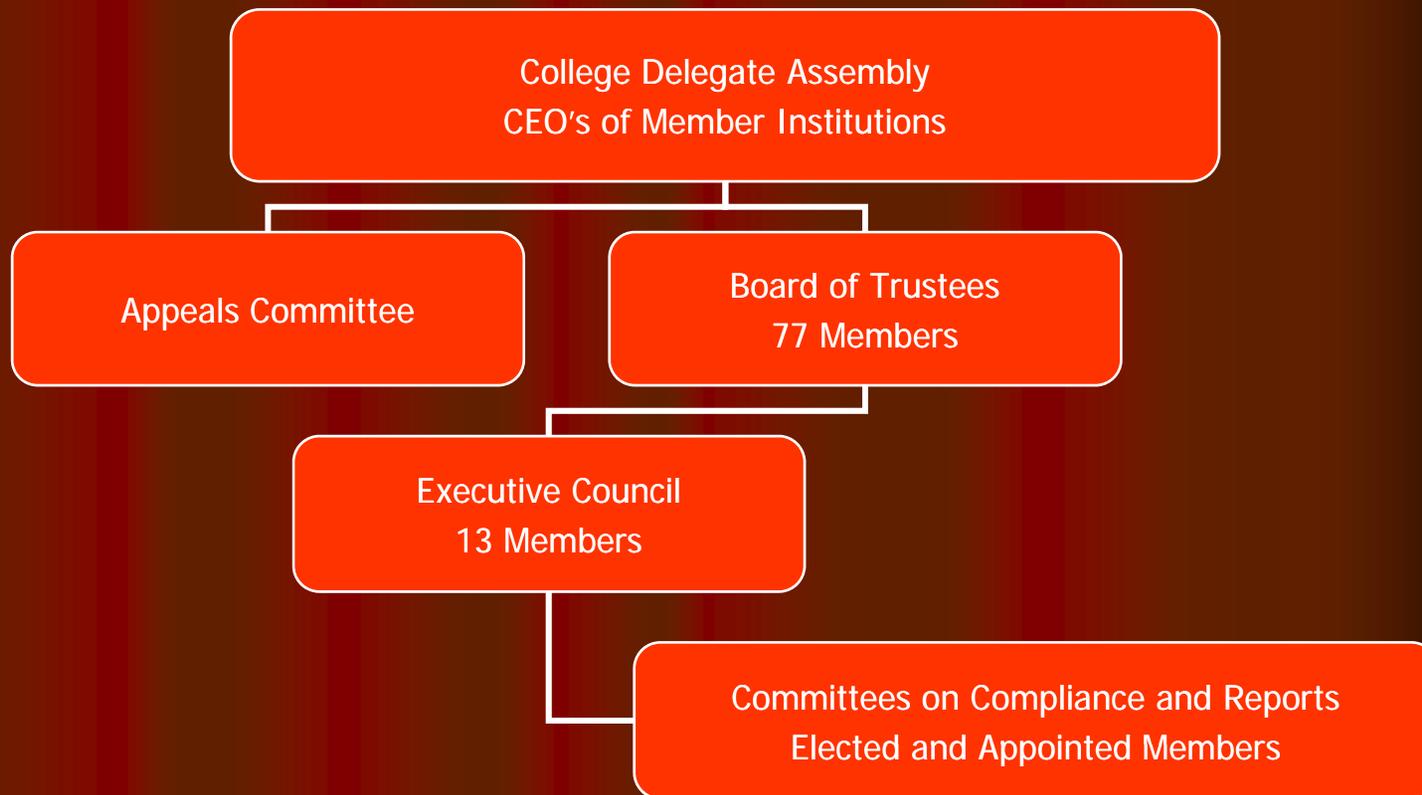
- Review by U.S. Department of Education based on recognition standards
- Recommendation by DOE to National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) (Appointed group of educators and public members)
- NACIQI makes recommendation to recognize or not recognize an accrediting agency to US Secretary of Education



Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



Commission on Colleges Structure



College Delegate Assembly

- There are 804 member institutions each with one vote on such things as changes to the *Principles* or the dues structure
- The CEO of a member institution has the vote but may appoint someone else from the institution to vote for him/her
- The College Delegate Assembly meets once per year at the Annual Meeting in December

SACSCOC Board of Trustees

- 77 persons (called Trustees)
- Three institutional representatives from each state (33)
- One public member from each state (11)
- Thirty-three at large representatives from member institutions (33)
- They represent public and private institutions
- They represent all levels of member institutions
- Meet twice a year in June and in December
- They may be presidents, other administrators, or faculty from member institutions.

Executive Council

- 13 of the Trustees serve on the Executive Council
- One from each of the eleven states
- One public member
- The Chair of the Commission

Appeals Committee

Some decisions affecting an institution are appealable, e.g., withdrawal from membership. When an institution appeals, the Appeals Committee meets to hear the appeal.

Committees on Compliance and Reports

- The 64 Trustees who do not serve on the Executive Council serve on the Committees on Compliance and Reports
- These Committees make recommendations about actions on institutions when they meet in June at the Summer Meeting and in December at the Annual Meeting

Process for Taking Action on a Member Institution

- Materials submitted by institution
- Committee visit
- Materials and Reports submitted to Committee on Compliance and Reports
- Recommendation by Committee on Compliance and Reports to Executive Council for review and (sometimes) change
- Entire 77 member Board then votes on recommended action

Principles of Accreditation

- The requirements and standards which institutions must meet to become members and remain members
- Developed by committees or task forces consisting of representatives of member institutions
- Can be changed only by vote of College Delegate Assembly

Principles of Accreditation

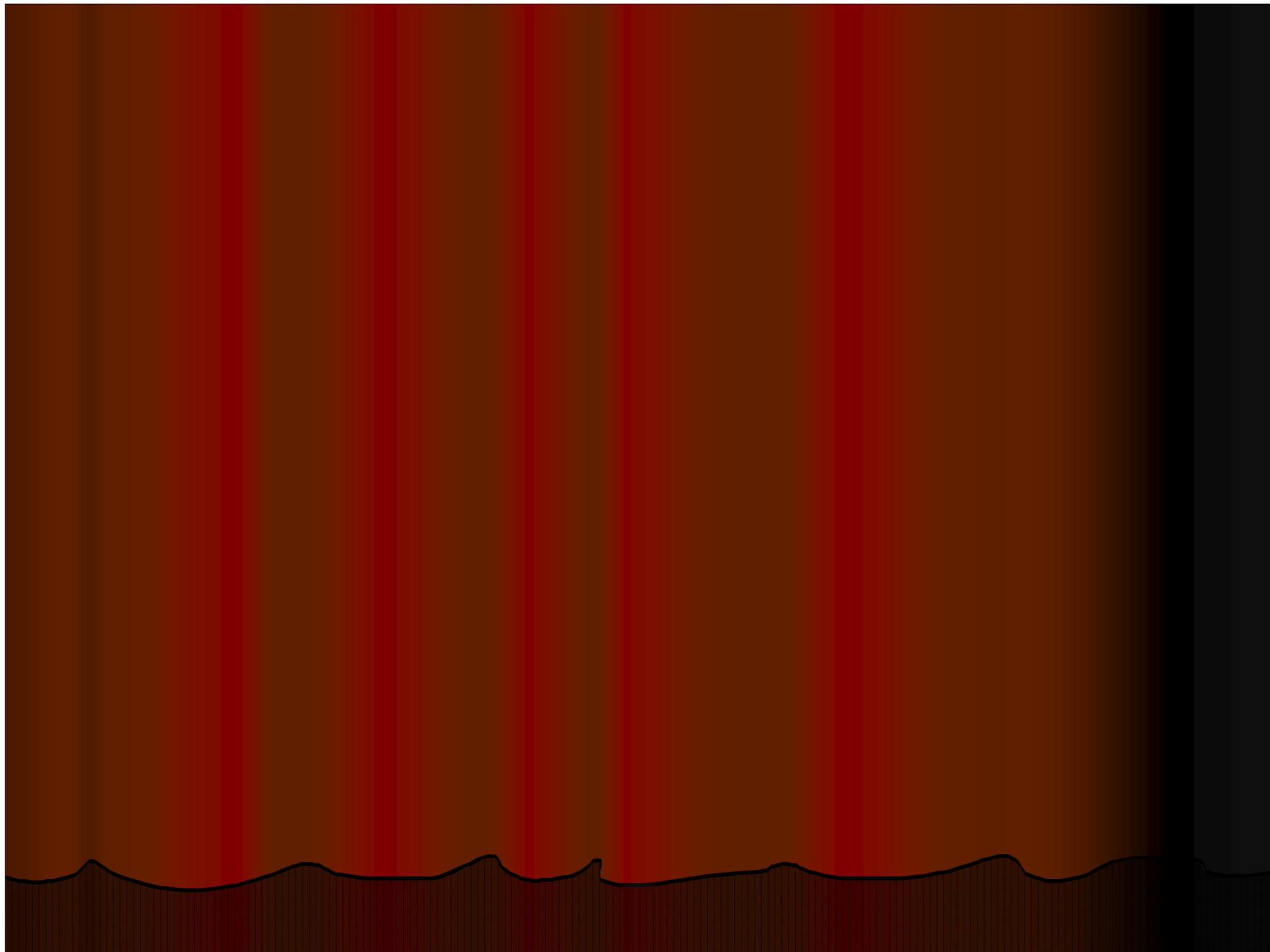
- Principle of Integrity
- Core Requirements
 - Governance, Administrative Structure, Mission, Curriculum, Learning Resources, Student Support Services, Financial and Physical Resources, Faculty, Evaluation and Planning, Quality Enhancement Plan
- Comprehensive Standards
 - Same as above but in further detail
- Federal Requirements
 - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies

Reaffirmation Process

- Compliance Certification
- Off-Site Committee Review
- Focused Report
- On-Site Committee Review
 - QEP
 - Non-Compliance Issues
 - Selected Issues for US DOE
- C&R Committee Review
- Executive Council Review
- Board Approval

Substantive Change

If a member institution undertakes a change that is significant ("substantive") such as a level change or change of ownership or developing off campus sites, it must go through an approval process.



ROLES OF THE BOARD

- *Policy-making body*
- *Hire, Evaluate and, when necessary, Fire the CEO*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE

Complementary but separate duties

[Clear and appropriate distinction, in writing & in practice, between policy-making function of board & responsibility of administration & faculty to implement policy]. (CS3.2..6)

BOARD STATUS/STRUCTURE

Is the legal body with authority over institution.

Minimum of five members.

Not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations/interests separate from it. (CR2.2)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Responsibility & authority of faculty

[Policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in governance and academic matters]. (CR2.2 & CS3.7.5)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Academic freedom

[Ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom]. (CS3.7.4)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Protect institution from undue influence

[Maintain freedom from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence]. (CS3.2.4)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Conflict of interest

[Presiding officer of the board & a majority of the other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution]. (CS2.2)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Select and evaluate the CEO

[The governing board is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer].

(CS3.2.1)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Board member dismissal

[Policy whereby board members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process]. (CS3.2.5)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

*Ensuring adequate financial resources
and stability* (CR2.2 ; CR2.11.1; CS3.10.1)

*Provide appropriate financial
statements* (CR2.11.1; CS3.10.3; FR4.7)

SACS

Students Are Central to Success

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