



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
FOUNDATION

Board Approved 10/04/2019. Amended October 2020. [Excerpt]

I. TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The University of South Dakota Foundation (“Foundation”) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of South Dakota. The Foundation’s purpose is to inspire, solicit, facilitate, and manage charitable gifts for the benefit of the University of South Dakota (“University”). The Foundation has long benefited from the dedication, service, and financial support of volunteers representing broad constituencies committed to the mission and future of the Foundation and University. These volunteers include more than 225 Trustees, who serve as the Foundation’s corporate members. Elected from among the Trustees is the Foundation’s fiduciary Board of Directors, a body essential to the organization’s strength and vitality. This document is intended to outline expectations for all Trustees.

A. TRUSTEES

Foundation bylaws provide that the Trustees will normally have one annual regular meeting held in conjunction with Dakota Days. Among the regular business of the Trustees before and during the annual meeting is electing additional Trustees, electing members of the Board of Directors, and transacting any other business that may come before them, e.g., approval of bylaw amendments. Beyond these important but limited responsibilities, Trustees are generally charged with demonstrating and inspiring philanthropic leadership and acting as Foundation ambassadors, as provided in bylaw section 2.8:

The Trustees have the unique responsibility and privilege of supporting the University through their charitable contributions. In addition, Trustees can influence others to contribute financially to the University. While the primary and most visible commitment is financial, Trustees also are strong advocates that build enthusiasm, loyalty and pride among alumni.

Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusivity – Trustees play an essential role in recruiting individuals for Trusteeship and potential service to the Foundation’s Board of Directors or any of its several standing committees. Membership across the Foundation’s governance structure – particularly within its Board of Directors – should reflect a rich blend of perspectives that can strengthen strategic influence and, ultimately, fundraising outcomes. This objective is consistent with and essential to the Foundation’s efforts to build a comprehensive culture of philanthropy, inclusive of all University communities and constituencies, whether defined by race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual identity, religion, socioeconomic status, geography, or other such identities and characteristics.

Giving Expectations – Defined Trustee giving expectations have varied throughout the Foundation’s history. As a general proposition, consistent with Foundation bylaws, it is expected that Trustees lead by example in support of the Foundation’s central, increasingly critical private fundraising purpose. The following guidelines should inform Trustee giving decisions:

1. A Trustee’s financial commitments to the Foundation should be of a level that suggests the Foundation is a high-priority charity.

2. **Each Trustee household should make annual gifts to the Foundation totaling at least \$1,200.** These contributions may be made in support of Foundation operations or any other fund(s) established for the benefit of the University's students, faculty, programs, or facilities. There are limitless ways a Trustee might choose to structure his or her annual commitment.
3. While still encouraged to actively give, Trustees who've made lifetime gifts totaling \$100,000 or more are exempt from annual giving expectations.
4. Though not a hard expectation, Trustees are asked to consider committing to a major lifetime gift pledge (\$25,000 or more) and a documented bequest that would designate the Foundation as a recipient of estate proceeds. This is a point of emphasis for Trustees serving on the Board of Directors.