



**POLICY 1-6**

**BOARD DISMISSAL**

**Responsible Executive:** University Board of Trustees  
**Approving Official:** University Board of Trustees  
**Effective Date:** November 12, 2021  
**Revision History:** New adopted as President's Policy. May 1, 2013; Revised, approved by BOT as Board Policy, November 12, 2021

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The boards of trustees and the individual trustee positions within the Florida State University System are created by Article IX, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution. Each member of a state university board of trustees is, therefore, a state officer and is governed by Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution providing for suspension of state officers by the Governor and final removal from office by the Florida Senate. Each trustee is then also subject to the implementing legislation of that Constitutional section by the Florida Legislature. Such legislation makes specific provisions for suspension and removal of state officers from office. These governing laws provide for suspension from office of a state officer by the Governor for malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, drunkenness, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or commission of a felony.

The purpose of this policy is to identify the governing procedure and law for dismissal of members of the Florida State University Board of Trustees.

**II. POLICY**

Removal of members of the Florida State University Board of Trustees is governed solely and exclusively by the provisions of Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution and Part V, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, Suspension, Removal, or Retirement of Public Officers.

In accord with the governing authorities cited above, any person with credible information of commission of any acts by a Florida State University Board of Trustee member constituting grounds for suspension from office by the Governor of the State of Florida on the basis of "malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, drunkenness, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or commission of a felony" should report such information to the Office of the Governor or the Florida Commission on Ethics. A finding of a violation of the Code of Ethics can result in, among other penalties, removal or suspension from office in accordance with section 112.317, Florida Statutes. Suspension or removal would be effected via a lawful order of the Governor of the State of Florida, the Ethics Commission, or the Florida Board of Governors.

The Florida Board of Governors has provided in its Regulation 1.001(2) (c) that the chair of the board of trustees shall notify the board member's appointing authority if any board member has an unexcused absence for three consecutive meetings. Said absences may be grounds for removal by the Board of Governors.

### **III. LEGAL SUPPORT, JUSTIFICATION, AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY**

Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution, BOG Regulation 1.001(2)(c).

This Policy shall be reviewed and, as appropriate, revised by the Board of Trustees every seven years.

Approved 11-12-21  
FSU Board of Trustees