

NAHRO BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Statement of Commonly Held Principles

Supplement to NAHRO Bylaws March 2002

- The NAHRO Board of Governors is an initiator of policy and responsible for its own performance.
- As stewards of the organization, the Board shall keep its principal involvement focussed on the long-term impact and value of the Association, not with the administrative or programmatic means of attaining enacted goals and objectives.
- The Board will enforce upon itself necessary discipline to govern with excellence. Discipline may include attendance, policy-making principles, respect of roles between Board and staff, speaking with a unified voice and self-policing of Board tendencies to stray from rigorous governance.
- Meeting management and governance are mutual obligations of the Board, as a group. The Board shall maintain sole authority over its own agenda. The President will exercise this control on behalf of the Board. Any member of the Board – with the majority agreeing – may add or delete business from the agenda.
 - Civil, yet rigorous, policy debate and discussion is encouraged and promoted.
 - NAHRO Bylaws remain in full force and *Robert's Rules of Order* will be utilized as appropriate.
- As stewards of the Association, the Board serves as the legitimizing connection between NAHRO members and the Association. To facilitate ownership and viability, the Board will remain vigilant to members' diverse needs and expectations. The activities and outcomes of the Board shall, at all appropriate times, be transparent and apparent to NAHRO members.
- Committees (which include subcommittees, task forces and working groups) of the Board are needed to assist the Board in decision making. As such, committees have a duty to rigorously and thoroughly investigate the implications of policy alternatives. With the aid and support of staff, committees must ensure all available options and implications of policy alternatives have been addressed prior to referral to the Board. The work of the Committees shall not be duplicated by the Board of Governors.
- The Board shall assure the Executive Director's performance and, by setting performance expectations and criteria, the performance of staff. The Board mutually delegates periodic and ongoing evaluation of the Executive Director to the Senior Vice President and a subcommittee of the Board.