Board Monitoring Report-Policy C1: Governing Style - Updated for January 2022

Please take the monitoring survey for Policy C1, as the policy survey sent in November was based on the outdated version of the policy.

Visit https://moscowfood.coop/coop-policies to review this policy.

C1: To fulfill our governance commitment, the Board will govern in a manner consistent with the Four Pillars of Cooperative Governance (Teaming, Accountable Empowerment, Strategic Leadership, and Democracy). (Compliance with the sub-policies will demonstrate compliance with the top-level policy). Comments (Optional):

2 responses

These are new sub-policies that help us frame our board function.

Since I think we are out of compliance with some of the sub-policies, I think we're out of compliance with this policy

7 out of 10 participants have taken this survey.

C1.1. Prioritize taking whatever steps are needed to work together effectively. (Teaming) With this sub-policy, is the Board:

7 responses

C1.1. Comments (optional):

2 responses

I hope that the new approaches we will be implementing following the last retreat will help bring the board more together. We seem fragmented in our work and some are less able to be involved than others. Restructuring committees and board meetings should help. - Mark

I think our heart has been in the right place here, but we've fallen short of accomplishing this. We're working on it though and the retreat was a good start

C1.1a: Use Robert's Rules of Order to structure its meetings, as appropriate.

7 responses

C1.1a: Comments (optional):

1 response

We use the "Robert's Rules for Small Boards" version (see handbook); we do a reasonable job with this

C1.1b: Maintain a shared agreement on and commitment to Board excellence.

7 responses

C1.1b: Comments (optional):

2 responses

Not seeing a totally shared agreement yet.

I'd love to have a discussion about what "Board excellence" should look like; I think we all bring different ideas

C1.2. Ensure effective systems of delegating authority to professional management, holding the use of that power accountable, and clearly distinguishing between Board and management responsibilities. (Accountable Empowerment) With this sub-policy, is the Board:

7 responses

C1.2. Comments (optional):

1 response

We do this well

C1.2a. Observe the ten principles of the Policy Governance model as a tool to help fulfill this commitment.

7 responses

C1.2a. Comments (optional):

3 responses

We need a link to a list of the ten principles.

I think we have to be careful with #4, i.e. we don't get in the weeds with focusing on means.

I think we could improve on using the principle about Policy Sizes (when we say "that's operational", what we're really saying is that we've decided to leave those kinds of decisions up to management and staff; but if we deemed it appropriate, it's always an option to get more specific in our policy and define Board expectations for "operational" matters in more detail, it's just that the Board is then taking on responsibility for those decisions) but otherwise we do well here

C1.3. Govern with an emphasis on strategic leadership. Strategic leadership shall be defined as using insight and foresight to set direction and facilitate movement in that direction. (Strategic Leadership) With this sub-policy, is the Board:

7 responses

C1.3. Comments (optional):

3 responses

Very poor performance in area of strategic leadership

I am not sure this is happening.

I think we have a lot of work to do to get in compliance with this one and it should be a focus of ours

C1.4. Govern with an emphasis on maintaining relationships with the Cooperative's owners and promoting and supporting owner participation at all levels of the Cooperative's democracy. (Democracy) With this sub-policy, is the Board:

7 responses

C1.4. Comments (optional):

1 response

I don't think we're governing "with an emphasis" on this right now but following the communication plan will get us into compliance

C1.5. Act in accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws. With this sub-policy, is the Board:

7 responses

C1.5. Comments (optional):

1 response

After reviewing the bylaws, I believe we are in compliance with this sub-policy

C1.6. Comply with all relevant laws and regulations. With this sub-policy, is the Board:

7 responses

C1.6. Comments (optional):

1 response

To the best of my knowledge, we are in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations