

Academy Governance 101 - The more you know...

The word governance comes from an ancient Greek word, *kebernon*, which means to steer. In current usage, to govern means to steer, to control, and to influence from a position of authority. Governance deals with the legitimate distribution of authority through a system, whether a country or an organization.

Q: Who governs the Academy?

A: The Board of Directors (BOD) governs the organization and the House of Delegates (HOD) governs the profession.

Q: What does the Academy Board of Directors do to govern the organization?

A: To govern the organization, the Academy Board of Directors,

- sets and monitors strategic direction,
- oversees fiscal planning,
- provides leadership for professional initiatives,
- selects, supports and assesses the chief executive officer and conducts an annual performance appraisal,
- appoints persons to represent the Academy,
- establishes guidelines and policies for appeals, publications, awards and honors,
- administers and enforces the professional Code of Ethics in conjunction with CDR and HOD, and
- exercises such powers and performs all lawful acts permitted or required under the Illinois Not for Profit Corporation Act.

Q: Who makes up the Academy Board of Directors?

A: The Academy BOD consists of the

- President (1-year term),
- President-elect, elected by the general membership (1-year term),
- Past-President (1-year term),
- Treasurer (2-year term),
- Treasurer-elect, elected by the general membership (1-year term),
- 3 Directors at Large, elected by the general membership (3-year term),
- 3 HOD Directors, including the Speaker, Speaker-elect, and immediate Past-Speaker and are elected by the general membership (3-year term),
- 2 Public Members, appointed by the Academy Board of Directors (2-year term),
- Academy Foundation Chair, elected by the Foundation (1-year term), and
- Academy CEO (non-voting).

Q: What is the Academy's House of Delegates?

A: The deliberative body acting as the voice of members, which governs the profession and develops policy on major professional issues. To govern the profession, the House of Delegates,

- monitors and evaluates trends affecting the profession,
- monitors member issues and mega issues, and the resulting actions,
- approves standards of education and standards of practice,

- reviews, debates, and approves professional standards,
- establishes the size and structure of the House,
- adopts and revises with the Commission on Dietetic Registration a code of ethics for dietetics practitioners, disciplinary procedures for unethical conduct, and reinstatement conditions,
- makes recommendations on standards, qualifications, and other issues related to credentialing to the Commission on Dietetic Registration,
- makes recommendations on accreditation, approval and related issues to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND),
- provides direction for quality management in dietetics practice,
- identifies and develops position statements,
- provides oversight to Academy Bylaws and,
- assists with recruitment and retention efforts related to Academy membership, plus leadership development.



Q. Who represents the Academy member, the BOD or the HOD?

A: Both the BOD and the HOD represent all Academy members. To compare the Academy’s structure to the structure of governance of the United States, the BOD acts as the ‘Executive Branch.’ The BOD sets and monitors the strategic direction of the Academy, establishes policy within the organization, directs the Academy’s budgeting and finance activities, and monitors operational performance of the CEO. In contrast, the HOD, acts as the ‘Legislative Branch,’ representing Academy members by serving as a “representative of” on issues within the profession of dietetics. The HOD assumes that all view points are included in the decision-making process of what is needed to move the profession of dietetics forward.

Although there are ‘checks & balances’ between the groups (the HOD is represented on the BOD by 6 Directors who are the HOD Leadership Team), the groups work in collaboration to ensure members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics are the leading source of food and nutrition services.

To find more information on Academy and the work of the HOD and BOD, visit the Academy Web site at www.eatright.org/governance.