

# PA 3: Participatory Governance

3 points available

## A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that engage students, staff, faculty and local community members in the ongoing governance of the college or university. Governance includes a variety of organizational functions and decision-making processes, from financial oversight and personnel management to goal-setting and strategic planning. Sustainability requires participatory processes and structures that empower stakeholder groups to come together and work collaboratively to address sustainability challenges through access to and involvement in institutional governance. Without transformed governance structures, many sustainability gains cannot be realized.

## B. Criteria

### Part 1

Institution has adopted a framework for engaging internal [stakeholders](#) (i.e., students, staff, faculty) in governance. The framework includes:

- Representative bodies through which students, staff and/or faculty can each participate in governance (e.g., student council, staff council, faculty senate);  
And/or
- Elected student, staff and/or faculty representatives on the institution's highest [governing body](#). To count, representatives must be elected by their peers or appointed by a representative student, staff or faculty body or organization.

### Part 2

Institution has adopted a framework for engaging external stakeholders (i.e., local community members) in the institution's governance, strategy and operations. The framework includes:

- Written policies and procedures to identify and engage local residents in land use planning, capital investment projects, and other institutional decisions that affect the broader community (e.g., development projects that impact adjacent neighborhoods);  
And/or
- Formal participatory or shared governance bodies (e.g., seats on the institution's governing body and/or a formally recognized board, council or committee) through which community members representing the interests of the following stakeholder groups can regularly participate in institutional governance:
  - Local government and/or educational organizations;
  - Private sector organizations; and/or
  - Civil society (e.g., non-governmental organizations and nonprofit organizations).

The bodies and mechanisms reported for this credit may be managed by the institution (e.g., formal boards, committees, and councils), by stakeholder groups (e.g., independent committees and organizations that are formally recognized by the institution), or jointly (e.g., union/management structures).

Structures or mechanisms adopted by entities of which the institution is part (e.g., government or university system) may count for this credit as long as they apply and are adhered to by the institution.

## C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

## D. Scoring

Each part is scored independently.

### Part 1

Institutions earn the maximum of 1.5 points available for Part 1 by meeting both of the criteria outlined above for students, staff, and faculty. Partial points are available based on the number of criteria met for each group as follows:

For each stakeholder group (students, staff and faculty):	Points available for each group	Points earned toward Part 1
There is a representative body through which the stakeholder group can participate in governance.	0.25	
There is an elected representative of the stakeholder group on the institution's highest governing body.	0.25	
<b>Total points earned →</b>		<b>Up to 0.5 for each group (1.5 total)</b>

### Part 2

Institutions earn the maximum of 1.5 points available for Part 2 by meeting all of the criteria outlined above. Partial points are available based on the number of criteria met as follows:

Institution has:	Points available	Points earned for Part 2
Written policies and procedures to identify and engage local residents in land use planning, capital investment projects, and other institutional decisions that affect the community.	0.75	
Formal participatory or shared governance bodies through which community members representing the interests of local government and/or educational organizations can regularly participate in institutional governance.	0.25	
Formal participatory or shared governance bodies through which community members representing the interests of private sector organizations can regularly participate in institutional governance.	0.25	

Formal participatory or shared governance bodies through which community members representing the interests of civil society (e.g., non-governmental organizations and nonprofit organizations) can regularly participate in institutional governance.	0.25	
<b>Total points earned →</b>		<b>Up to 1.5</b>

## E. Reporting Fields

### Required

#### Part 1

- ☐ Do the institution's students have a representative body through which they can participate in governance (e.g., a student council)?
- ☐ Do the institution's students have an elected representative on the institution's highest governing body?
- If yes to either of the above, provide:*
  - A brief description of the bodies and mechanisms through which students are engaged in governance, including information to support each affirmative response above
- ☐ Do the institution's staff members have a representative body through which they can participate in governance (e.g., a staff council)?
- ☐ Do the institution's non-supervisory staff members have an elected representative on the institution's highest governing body?
- If yes to either of the above, provide:*
  - A brief description of the bodies and mechanisms through which staff are engaged in governance, including information to support each affirmative response above
- ☐ Do the institution's teaching and research faculty have a representative body through which they can participate in governance (e.g., a faculty senate)?
- ☐ Do the institution's teaching and research faculty have an elected representative on the institution's highest governing body?
- If yes to either of the above, provide:*
  - A brief description of the bodies and mechanisms through which teaching and research faculty are engaged in governance, including information to support each affirmative response above

#### Part 2

- ☐ Does the institution have written policies and procedures to identify and engage external stakeholders (i.e., local residents) in land use planning, capital investment projects, and other institutional decisions that affect the community (e.g., development projects that impact adjacent neighborhoods)?
- If yes, provide:*
  - A copy of the written policies procedures (text or upload)

- Does the institution have formal participatory or shared governance bodies (e.g., seats on the institution's governing body or a formally recognized board, council or committee) through which community members representing the interests of the following stakeholder groups can regularly participate in institutional governance?
  - Local government and/or educational organizations
  - Private sector organizations
  - Civil society (e.g., NGOs, NPOs)

*If yes to one or more of the above, provide:*

- A brief description of the bodies and mechanisms through which external stakeholders are engaged in institutional governance (including information about each stakeholder group selected above)

#### Optional

- The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## F. Measurement

### Timeframe

Report on current policies and procedures at the time of submission.

### Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable

## G. Standards and Terms

### Governing body

Governing body is defined as the highest governing body with ultimate authority at the site defined by the institutional boundary. This body might be called the board of trustees, board of governors, board of overseers, board of visitors or some other nomenclature. Institutions that are part of larger systems may have several boards that are involved in the institution's operation. The term governing body is intended to describe the board with the most direct involvement in campus governance and with the highest authority at that particular location.

### Stakeholders

Consistent with the [AccountAbility Stakeholder Engagement Standard](#) (AA1000SES), stakeholders are defined as follows:

Stakeholders are those groups who affect and/or could be affected by an organisation's activities, products or services and associated performance. This does not include all those who may have knowledge of or views about the organisation. Organisations will have many stakeholders, each with distinct types and levels of involvement, and often with diverse and sometimes conflicting interests and concerns.

