

Board Smart Dialogues

Pension plan trustees wrestle with weighty issues. Board Smart offers live, interactive dialogues between our Faculty Experts and your trustees. We bring these substantive conversations to Board sessions and delve into important governance issues of particular interest to your system.

- Dialogues give trustees a chance to explore important challenges with industry experts.
- Board Smart offers these 90-minute consultations to subscribers and qualified potential customers up to twice a year.
- Trustees select the dialogue topics by completing a short survey in advance.

Hot Topics Boards Are Discussing

Challenges of conducting business of the Board/Committees

- Volume of materials, length of meetings, and use of the Board portal
- Roles of the Chair, Vice Chairs, and Committees

Challenges of setting direction and policy and prudent delegation

- Options available, least to most, pros and cons, dissenting opinions
- Independence of advisors
- Conditions for prudent delegation
- Performance and risk

Challenges of approving key decisions

- Authorities retained by the jurisdiction
- Authorities exclusively reserved for the Board, including types of decisions and thresholds as well as due diligence

Challenges overseeing performance and risk consistent with direction and within policy

- Vital functions / vital signs
- Tolerances
- Exception reporting (what it is and what it takes to make it work)

Trust but Verify

- Who can the Board trust?
- Independence and the role of the Audit Committee

About Board Smart

Board Smart® is an online learning tool that provides continuing education to trustees and executives of pension and retirement systems to help them meet their fiduciary responsibilities and stay informed of best practices.