Article VIII, Section 7 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 states that the legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of public community colleges which shall be supervised and controlled by locally elected Boards of Trustees. On November 3, 1964, the voters approved the establishment of Southwestern Michigan College and elected a Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Community College Act, No. 331 of the Public Acts of 1966, the Board of Trustees has the authority and responsibility to promulgate rules for the proper establishment, maintenance, management, and administration of the College. In addition, the Board must adopt Bylaws, rules and regulations for its own government, and for the control and government of the College district.

These policies of Southwestern Michigan College have been established by the Board of Trustees pursuant to the Michigan Constitution, the Community College Act of 1966 and related statutes.