Decision-Governance Check

Connecting Responsibility, Authority, and Action in GME

When a decision becomes delayed, contested, or difficult to implement, the underlying issue may not be a lack of effort or accountability. The decision-making pathway itself may need attention.

Use this tool to examine one specific GME decision that requires action.

Decision or issue under consideration:	
1. Clarify the Decision	
What decision actually needs to be made?	
Where does the decision appropriately belong?	☐ Program level ☐ GME / Sponsoring Institution level ☐ Organizational / executive level ☐ Multiple levels are involved
2. Identify Authority and Input	
Who has final decision-making authority?	
Whose knowledge or perspective is needed to inform the decision?	
Does the person responsible for addressing the issue have the authority needed to act?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No ☐ Unclear
3. Examine the Decision Pathway	
If authority resides elsewhere, how does the issue reach the appropriate decisionmaker?	
What is currently preventing the decision from moving forward?	☐ Decision-making authority is unclear ☐ Authority is known but difficult to access ☐ Decision is being addressed at the wrong organizational level ☐ Necessary input or information is missing ☐ Agreement is being sought when consensus is not required ☐ No significant barrier identified ☐ Other: _____
4. Connect the Decision to Action	
Who will implement the decision?	
Who needs to be informed?	
How will implementation and results be reviewed?	

Governance Checkpoint

What needs to change in the decision-making pathway?

Who will take the next step, and when?

The purpose is not to assign blame for a stalled decision. It is to understand what the system needs to connect responsibility, authority, and meaningful action.

Disclaimer – while Partners® makes every effort to ensure the material here is accurate and up to date, you should exercise your own independent skill and judgement before relying on it to ensure it is still accurate as requirements change frequently. Created October 2026.