

How Service on a Public Governing Board is Unique from All Other Board Service

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October 20, 2020

About AGB – Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary

- **AGB Vision**

- AGB aspires to a world where college, university, and foundation board members are relied upon as **indispensable, strategic partners** for presidents and CEOs to advance student success and well-being, institutional vitality, and the public's understanding of the role and benefits of higher education.

- **AGB Mission**

- AGB empowers college, university, and foundation boards and board members to govern with knowledge and lead with confidence by delivering practical insights through its publications, events, and services.

- **AGB Members**

- 40,000 trustees and leaders of higher education institutions.
- Nearly 2,000 colleges, universities, and institutionally related foundations.



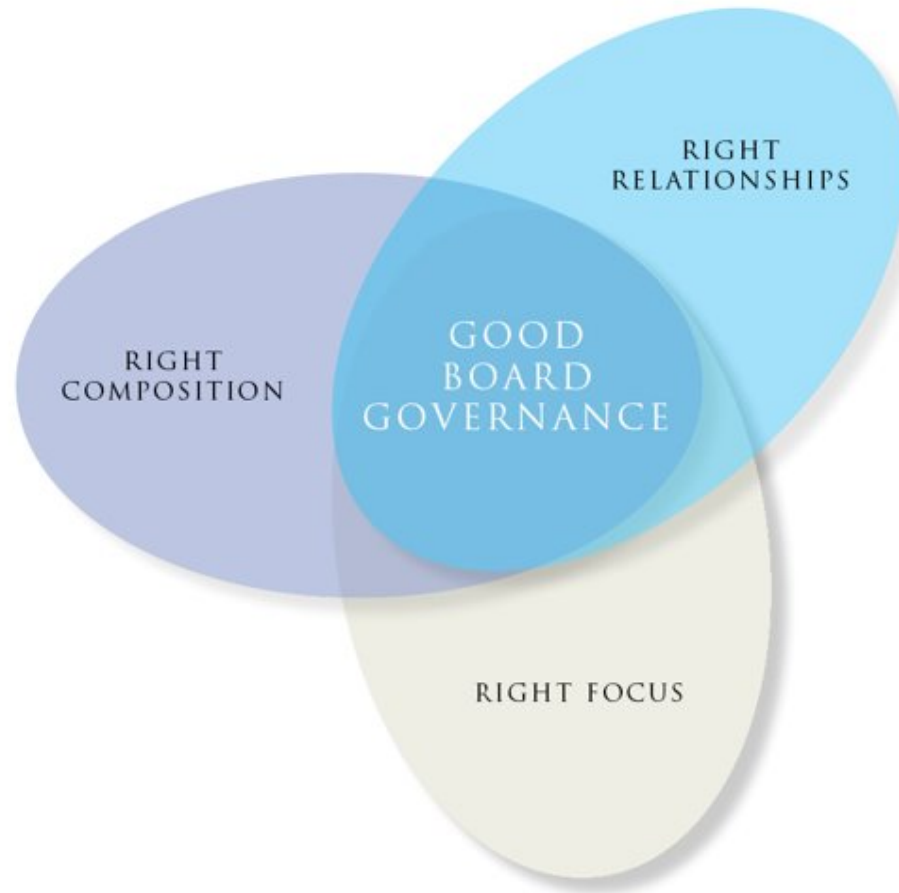
Agenda

- The Environment
- A strategic governing board
- How the Work Gets Done
- Questions
- Final Thoughts

The Environment

- Brutally Challenging
- Sustainability of the Business Model
- Value Proposition and Relevance
- Student Access and Success
- Regulations

Anatomy of an Engaged Board



Attributes of a Strategic Governing Board

- **Independence** of mindset and of influence
- Focus on **institutional** vitality and **student** success
- Prioritize **strategic** opportunities
- Build **trust** via collaborative engagement
- Serve as a **thought partner** with the president
- Leverage **diversity, equity, and inclusion** to establish a community of belonging

Principles of Strategic Board Leadership

1. Accountability
2. President
3. Strategy
4. Composition
5. Oversight vs. Management
6. Commitment

Six Principles of Board Leadership

1. Accountability

- The board is accountable for everything that happens and/or fails to happen within the institution.
- While accountability cannot be delegated, responsibility *can* be delegated.

2. President

- Hiring, supporting, and assessing the right president is the most critical responsibility for the board.
- The president-board chair partnership is critical—mutual expectations for effective leadership.

3. Strategy

- Strategies should focus on both student success & well-being and institutional vitality.
- Boards' focus should ensure a collaborative, on-going process.
- Evaluate options and alternatives, implications and risks.

Six Principles of Board Leadership (cont'd)

4. Composition

- Diverse skills, experiences and competencies should align with the institution's mission and priorities.
- Same with board committees – where work gets done.

5. Oversight vs. Management

- NIFO to oversee execution of strategies and policy development to mitigate risks.
- Risk appetite vs risk tolerance.
- Crisis leadership and understanding the board's role.

6. Commitment

- Effective board governance requires significant time.
- Suggest at least several hours per week spanning meetings, reading and learning to understand the issues facing the institution and prepare for committee and full board meetings.

What's next?

- Continuous learning.
- Leverage your board professional.
- Communicate with your board chair and president.
- Know when your next board & committee meetings are and ask how to prepare for them.

Final Thoughts

AGB is here to support you in your work as a trustee by providing vital information, expert counsel, advocacy, and customized consulting services.

Upcoming Events:

- [National Conference on Trusteeship 2021](#)

AGB Resources for New Board Members:

- [Crisis Leadership for Boards and Presidents](#)
- [Public Board Member Orientation](#)
- [Higher Education Governing Boards](#)
- [AGB Board of Directors' Statement on the Fiduciary Duties of Governing Board Members](#)
- [An Anatomy of Good Board Governance in Higher Education](#)