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

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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

- Right Composition
- Right Relationships
- Good Board Governance
- Right Focus
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