Best Practices of Strong and Effective Governing Boards

September 23, 2009
Nazarene Bible College
Board of Trustees

For whom is the

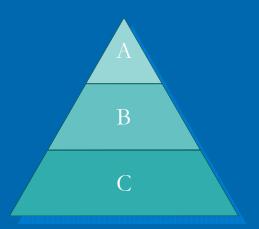
Nazarene Bible College

Board of Trustees

"the Trustee"?

"What do Board members do?"





1. Board members understand the role, purpose, and function of the Board (including committee structure).

2

PRINCIPLE:

FOCUS ON POLICY FORMULATION;

NOT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.

1a. Board members,

exercise their fiduciary responsibility

for the financial health and academic

integrity of the college and the spiritual

well being of the students who study

and the employees who work at NBC.

(in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, as appropriate).

1b. Board members think and work in the three **modes** of governance:

Fiduciary: Stewardship of tangible assets. Overall assets. Overall policy. Deploy resources wisely. Ensure legal and financial integrity. Monitor results. Due diligence.

Fiduciary:

Strategic: Partner with the president and his/her senior staff. Design and modify strategic plans. Proactive and intentional in strategic planning.

Fiduciary:

Strategic:

Representative: Perspective rooted in values, traditions and beliefs of the school. Problems are framed in light of school heritage. How is the ethos of the college communicated through the academic programs? Are the decisions violating the values of the college?

Board Members understand and 1c. embrace the difference between policy formulation (Board responsibility) and policy implementation (administration responsibility).

"NOSE IN; FINGERS OUT"

vision

2. Board members know and communicate the school's mission, vision, and values.

PRINCIPLE:

ESTABLISH POLICIES AND MAKE DECISIONS WITH A LASER BEAM COMMITMENT TO THE SCHOOL'S MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES.

3. Board members ask the right questions...

- Who are we?
- > Where are we?
- Where are we going?
- How will we get there?
- > Why is it important to get there?
- How will we know when we get there?

PRINCIPLE:

FOCUS ON VALUE DEFINING,
FORWARD LOOKING AND
FACILITATING QUESTIONS;

ADDRESS THE LEGAL, PLANNING, AND RESTORATIVE CONCERNS.

Questions asked by

National Education Boards and

Regional accrediting agencies:

"Does your school have a

mission statement that is

known, owned, and repeated?"

What is the filter through which every policy and decision is screened? Is there overwhelming evidence of the connection between mission, policies and programs?

"Have you marshaled

the resources to fulfill

the mission?"

Do we have an balanced operating budget that is mission driven? Are human and financial resources focused like a laser beam on mission critical personnel and programs?

"Are you accomplishing

your mission?"

What is our product?

What is the quality of students we produce?

"Are you going to marshal the resources to continue fulfilling your mission?"

Do we have a plan to sustain and develop the financial resources needed by the school to fulfill its mission?

4. Board members understand and embrace the Board Policy *Manual* that contains the Board approved policies for effective and efficient governance of the college.

PRINCIPLE:

BOARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE MAINTAINED IN AN UP TO DATE MANUAL THAT IS PROVIDED TO EVERY BOARD MEMBER.

TEMPLATE Mount Vernon Nazarene University Board Policy Manual

"A forward looking, value-defining and facilitating Board"

Introduction

This Board Standing Policies Manual contains all the standing, or ongoing, policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Reasons for Adoption. The reasons for adopting this evolving manual include:

- 1. Efficiency of having ALL on-going board policies in one place.
- 2. Ability to quickly orient new board members to current policies.
- 3. Elimination of redundant, or conflicting, policies over time.
- 4. Ease of reviewing current policy when considering new issues.
- 5. Clear, pro-active policies to guide the APNTS president.
- 6. Models an approach to governance that sister institutions may use

I. Ends toward which we are working—Mission, Vision, Values

This section defines why we exist, for whom we exist, what we intend to contribute to those for whom we exist, and the priorities we assign to assign to the benefits we provide to them.

II. Board Governance Process

This section defines how the Board will go about doing its work of governing the organization.

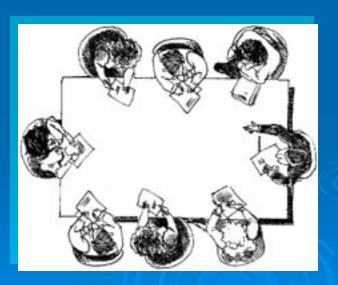
III. Board/President Linkage

This section defines how the Board will delegate authority and responsibility to the president.

IV. Executive Parameters

This section defines the parameters/limitations within which the president will work in accomplishing the task assigned to him/her.

5. Board members relate to the school president and constituency with one voice and one spirit.



PRINCIPLE:

VIGOROUSLY DISCUSS POLICY OPTIONS AND MAKE DECISIONS WITHIN THE BOARD MEETINGS, AND COMMUNICATE BOARD ACTION OUTSIDE THE BOARD MEETINGS WITH UNIFIED SUPPORT.

Develop a synergistic board and College president partnership.

A good school leader - board chair relationship is like a good marriage: It is based on mutual respect, trust, commitment, and effective communication.

Board – President discussion questions:

What should we be worrying about as a college?

What are we hearing that the school administration needs to hear?

What are we thinking or dreaming about the school?

What are our concerns about school?

What ideas would we like the school administrators to consider?

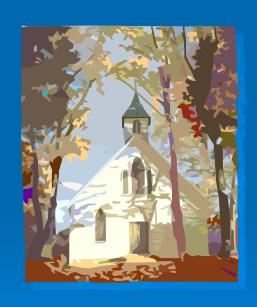
Board and school leadership need to work together to plan, set agendas and policies.

The president needs to be involved in any board development process, and the board chair must be kept abreast of major developments in the College's areas of responsibility.

Board members communicate with each other Christianly (Eph. 4:2), compassionately, respectfully, directly, and supportively.



Board members listen to the constituency,



appreciate the heritage of the school, and

model faith development and spiritual formation.

PRINCIPLE:

SERVE AS AN ACTIVE, NOT PASSIVE, EXTENSION OF THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT BETWEEN BOARD MEETINGS.

7. Board members

are outstanding

examples of

giving regularly and

sacrificially to

the school.

PRINCIPLE:

FINANCIAL DONORS LOOK FIRST TO BOARD MEMBERS FOR EVIDENCE OF THEIR CONSISTENT GIVING TO THE COLLEGE - INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY.

8. Board members develop new leaders throughout the denomination for increased responsibilities and commitment to the school.









PRINCIPLE:

REPRODUCE YOURSELF AS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR THE COLLEGE.

Use committees as a way to provide opportunities for emerging leaders to take on more responsibility.

Board leaders should consciously mentor the next generation of leadership.

Nurture future leadership.

Summary of characteristics...

Board members understand
 and embrace the role,
 purpose, and function of the
 Board (including structure).

1a. Board members exercise their fiduciary responsibility for the financial health, academic integrity and spiritual well-being of the institution, in conjunction with the Board of General Superintendents, as appropriate.

1b. Board members think and work in the three **modes** of governance.

- 1c. Board members understand and embrace the difference between policy formulation (Board responsibility) and policy implementation (administration responsibility).
- Board members articulate the mission, vision and values of the school.

3. Board members ask the right questions.

4. Board members understand and embrace the Board Policy Manual that contains the policies for effective and efficient governance of the college.

5. Board members relate to the school President and the constituency with one voice.

Board members relate to the school president Christianly (Ephesians 4:2), compassionately, respectively, directly and supportively.

6. Board members listen to the constituency and friends, appreciate the heritage of the school, and model faith development and spiritual formation.

7. Board members are lead examples of giving regularly and sacrificially to the school.

8. Board members development new leaders throughout the denomination for increased responsibilities and commitment to the school.