

Monitoring and Oversight: What is Good Information?

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Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

Texas Higher Education
Leadership Conference

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Content sources: (1) Consequential Boards: Adding Value Where It Matters Most; and (2) Monitoring and Oversight: What is Good Information?; Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)

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Boards Need Information About . . .

- Revenues and expenditures
- The flow of students from K-12 schools to college and on through to the labor market
- How personnel are used
- Comparisons with peer institutions
- Patterns of spending
- Major spending goals or standards

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Reliable Information Can Be Gathered from . . .

- Officers or employees of the institution whom the board reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented
- Legal counsel, public accountants, or others who are professionally or expertly competent
- A committee of the governing board of which he or she is not a member

Reliance on Information Provided by Others . . .

- Must be reasonable under the circumstances, considering such factors as:
 - The source
 - Whether the information is a brief summary or an extensive analysis
 - Whether the matter is routine or exceptional
 - The time frame in which a decision must be made

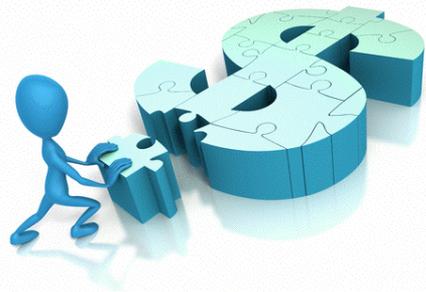


What You Should Know and Why

As a representative of the people of Texas, a board member should know about . . .

Finances

- Ensure dollars are spent in an effective and efficient manner
- Ensure institutional financial health – live within budget and spending categories
- Understand the true cost of athletics
- Know your system's or institution's reserves
- Watch debt closely



Economic Development

- Be aware of activities that boost the economic development of the state and region
- Be knowledgeable of the success (or not) of private fund raising



Audit and Accreditation Reports

- Know significant findings on audit reports
- Be aware of any regional and professional accreditation findings



Facilities and Employees



- Ensure that the physical facilities are maintained and new ones built when needed
- Ensure employees are treated fairly
- Understand the employee performance evaluation process
- Know the diversity of faculty and staff

Academic Programs

- Ensure that academic programs are of the highest quality the institution can afford
- Be sure the institution deals with the suggestions of accrediting bodies
- Ensure the viability of academic programs and centers
- Be knowledgeable about collaborations with other systems and institutions
- Be aware of the success (or not) of online offerings

Student Health & Safety

- Ensure that students are safe and in a healthy environment
- Secure assurance that students are provided the assistance necessary to complete their education as soon as possible



Strategic Plan

- Ensure that the system or institution has a viable strategic plan and that it's being followed
- Make sure that the institution is making progress toward its share of the goals and targets of *60x30TX*



Data You Should Know and Why

Given that data can stimulate good questions and assist sound decision-making, a board member should become familiar with useful data regarding . . .

Useful Data on Student Enrollment and Persistence

- Diversity of the student population
- Academic preparedness of incoming freshmen
- Enrollment trends by major
- Number and percentage in remedial courses and their success rates
- Number and percentage receiving financial aid
- Transfer rates and success of transfers
- Retention rates
- Graduation rates
- Progress on *60x30TX*

Useful Data on Graduates

- What happens to graduates
- Pass rates on national licensure exams
- Average salaries after graduation
- Debt load of graduates by discipline



Useful Comparisons with Peer Institutions

- Cost by category per 100 full-time equivalent students
- Administrative staffing per 100 full-time equivalent students
- Staffing ratio per 100 full-time equivalent students by institutional category
- Income from tuition and fees per 100 full-time equivalent students
- Average salaries for faculty and staff
- Trends

Questions or Comments?

