

Legislative Interims Report
Sep 8, 2008
By Roy Nutter

Galen Hansen, Fairmont, and I attended the Legislative Interims Higher Ed meeting today and heard Jay Cole's presentation on Higher ED governance.

Overall, I was very impressed with his understanding of the issue and of the attention that the members of the committee who were present (probably less than half) gave to him. He provided no handouts but is to provide them to the Leg committee and to us when complete. When I receive them, I will forward to ACF.

Jay Cole is presently Interim Chief of Staff for WVU Interim President McGrath.
From 2001-2005, he was Sr Policy Advisor to Gov Wise.
From 2005-2007, he was Education Policy Advisor to Gov Manchin
From 2007-2008, he was in the Div of Fed Policy for the College Board.

10 common considerations related to Higher Ed Governance.

1. Relationships need defined between HEPC/BoGs/Planning and regulatory and enforcement branch (Leg)
2. How to choose members of the BoG's
 - Can be Gov chosen
 - Can be Legislature chosen
 - Can be Elected by Groups
 - Can be Elected by the public at general Elections
 - Can be a combination
3. Length of Term and Limits on number of Terms
4. Training of Bd members, i.e. How and What do they receive
5. Requirements of membership
 - i.e. residency required?,
 - Faculty members (req specialized areas of expertise?)
 - i.e. health sciences or Athletics,
 - i.e. each member should be vetted and also sign a non-conflict of interest document. (Having BoG members making money from a school while serving should never happen....rsn)
6. Size of Bd. 12 min to 18-24 ideal to 32 MAX (probably unworkable)
7. Designation of some members as emeritus members
8. Need for External Evaluation of Bds. i.e. assessment and continuous improvement.
9. # of meetings per year. Varies from 2 to 12 per year. Avg is 6.
10. Complexity of Bd operation. i.e. subcommittees of BoG can focus and bring back recommendations to Bd.

He made special emphasis that "Different institutions have different missions and thus different needs."

Nutter comments:

If I were to interpret what I heard from the legislators, it was that they want to consider changes to the BoG appointment mechanisms to improve the quality of BoG members.

Nutter comments:

The problem is obvious. As is, the Gov must appoint up to 15 people to each of the higher ed (18?) BoGs ? That is a lot of appointments (200+) that must come from the people he knows or the people that people he knows know :-). I would suggest that a source of quality people at least at WVU would be the academies. Most of the Depts and most of the Colleges have "Academy of Distinguished Alumni" with at least 45 inductees each that could serve as an outstanding pool of national and even international candidates for BoGs. To do so would mean that the residency rules must be changed at a minimum.

...Roy