Several jobs are as demanding as a college presidency. From championing the institution's mission to implementing a strategic plan to serving as master of ceremonies and intellectual visionary (sometimes all in the same day), presidents must balance a myriad of responsibilities and duties. Just as each institution is different, so are the metrics for success in leading it. But presidential success always—and only—comes with the support of the faculty, staff, students, and board.

Since its founding, AGB has studied the relationship between presidents and boards in order to understand how great institutions are led. Here we've teased out some of our comparative findings over the years between public and independent institutions and their leaders.

LEADING VISION
Strengthen Presidential Leadership through Good Governance

1. How often is presidential performance assessed? When was the last comprehensive presidential assessment conducted?
2. How are presidential goals and performance indicators established? Who is involved in these conversations and decisions?
3. How are the board's actions supporting or impeding the president's success?
4. How does your board work with the president on areas of potential growth? How is the president rewarded for major success?

“Few jobs are as demanding as a college presidency. From championing the institution’s mission to implementing a strategic plan to serving as master of ceremonies and intellectual visionary (sometimes all in the same day), presidents must balance a myriad of responsibilities and duties. Just as each institution is different, so are the metrics for success in leading it. But presidential success always—and only—comes with the support of the faculty, staff, students, and board.”

Carol Christ
Senior Consultant, AGB

“Expert voices
Strengthen Presidential Leadership through Good Governance

Thomas Meredith
Senior Fellow, AGB

“Strong partnership is based on the foundation of good governance. When I began my appointment as president of Smith College, I asked my board chair what the most important function of the board of trustees was. “To help the president succeed,” she said. My experience with colleges and universities continually reinforces the wisdom of her words.”

Carol Christ
Senior Consultant, AGB

AGB Consulting understands that good governance doesn't look the same at all institutions—and it can't be achieved in an hour-long workshop. It must be cultivated through an individual process that results in collaboration and partnerships for solutions. Our consultants include current and former presidents, chancellors, board chairs, provosts, system leaders, and foundation executives. They know higher education from the inside out and offer insights only first-hand experience can bring. Our services can help your institution harness the expertise of AGB's 90+ years of thought leadership in all areas of governance to address the specific challenges and questions you face.

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
202.776.0824
consulting@agb.org
www.agbconsulting.org

Big Ideas can often spark engaged discussion and purposeful action. If you’re ready to build a better board, AGB Consulting is pleased to offer the following areas of service, as well as many others:

- Comprehensive Presidential Assessment
- Leadership Advisory Services
- President and Board Assessment
- Cabinet and Board Development Workshops
Few jobs are as demanding as a college presidency. From championing the institution’s mission to implementing a strategic plan to serving as master of ceremonies and intellectual visionary (sometimes all in the same day), presidents must balance a myriad of responsibilities and duties. Just as each institution is different, so are the metrics for success in leading it. But presidential success always—and only—comes with the support of the faculty, staff, students, and board.

Since its founding, AGB has studied the relationship between presidents and boards in order to understand how great institutions are led. Here we’ve teased out some of our comparative findings over the years between public and independent institutions and their leaders.

LEADING VISION
Strengthen Presidential Leadership through Good Governance

Big Ideas

AGB Consulting understands that good governance doesn’t look the same at all institutions—and it can’t be achieved in an hour-long workshop. It must be cultivated through an individual process that results in collaboration and partnerships for solutions. Our consultants include current and former presidents, chancellors, board chairs, provosts, system leaders, and foundation executives. They know higher education from the inside out and offer insights only first-hand experience can bring. Our services can help your institution harness the expertise of AGB’s 90+ years of thought leadership in all areas of governance to address the specific challenges and questions you face.

Questions to Ponder

1. How often is presidential performance assessed? When was the last comprehensive presidential assessment conducted?
2. How often are presidential goals and performance indicators established? Who is involved in these conversations and decisions?
3. How are the board’s actions supporting or impeding the president’s success?
4. How does your board work with the president on areas of potential growth? How is the president rewarded for major successes?
LEADING VISION

By focusing on the important issues early, you not only establish a strong presidency, but also ensure your institution is ready for the opportunities that come. Building a successful presidency works best when everyone works together.

PUBLIC INSTITUTION BOARDS

INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION BOARDS

PRESIDENTS WHO BELIEVE THERE IS APPROPRIATE ENGAGEMENT FROM BOARDS ON PRESIDENTIAL-BOARD RELATIONS

85%
86%

PRESIDENTS WHO BELIEVE BOARDS MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT

WHO HAVE SERVED

3 YEARS OR LESS
4 - 7 YEARS
8 - 12 YEARS
12 + YEARS

78%
83%
88%
90%

PRESIDENTS WHO ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR BOARDS

WHO HAVE SERVED

3 YEARS OR LESS
4 - 7 YEARS
8 - 12 YEARS
12 + YEARS

69%
79%
85%
91%

WHAT POLICIES DO YOU HAVE THAT AFFECT COMPENSATION?

SALARY
HOUSING
DEFERRED COMPENSATION
BONUSES
CONSULTING/BOARD SERVICES COMPENSATION
SPOUSE/PARTNER EMPLOYMENT
OTHER

74%
79%
63%
51%
43%
20%
17%
20%
93%
66%
64%
64%
43%
27%
27%
9%

THE BOARD HAS A POLICY THAT SHAPES THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF CEO COMPENSATION

27%
20%
27%
Few jobs are as demanding as a college presidency. From championing the institution’s mission to implementing a strategic plan to serving as master of ceremonies and intellectual visionary (sometimes all in the same day), presidents must balance a myriad of responsibilities and duties. Just as each institution is different, so are the metrics for success in leading it. But presidential success always—and only—comes with the support of the faculty, staff, students, and board.

Since its founding, AGB has studied the relationship between presidents and boards in order to understand how great institutions are led. Here we’ve teased out some of our comparative findings over the years between public and independent institutions and their leaders.

**Strengthen Presidential Leadership through Good Governance**

**LEADING VISION**

**Questions To Ponder**

**Expert Voices**

**Big Ideas**

AGB Consulting understands that good governance doesn’t look the same at all institutions—and it can’t be achieved in an hour-long workshop. It must be cultivated through an individual process that results in collaboration and partnerships for solutions. Our consultants include current and former presidents, chancellors, board chairs, provosts, system leaders, and foundation executives. They know higher education from the inside out and office insights only first-hand experience can bring. Our services can help your institution harness the expertise of AGB’s 90+ years of thought leadership in all areas of governance to address the specific challenges and questions you face.

AGB Consulting

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
202.776.0824 | consulting@agb.org | www.agbconsulting.org

When I began my appointment as president of Smith College, I asked my board chair what the most important function of the board of trustees was. “To help the president succeed,” she said. My experience with colleges and universities continually reinforces the wisdom of her words.

Carol Christ
Senior Consultant, AGB

A highly effective board knows that a comprehensive assessment of its president every three to five years, done with a positive intent to improve the president, the board, and the institution, produces a partnership for success. Everyone needs confirmation of their good work and feedback on areas needing improvement.

Thomas Meredith
Senior Fellow, AGB

How often is presidential performance assessed? When was the last comprehensive presidential assessment conducted?

Big ideas can often spark engaged discussion and purposeful action. If you’re ready to build a better board, AGB Consulting is pleased to offer the following areas of service, as well as many others:

- Comprehensive Presidential Assessment
- Leadership Advisory Services
- President and Board Assessment
- Cabinet and Board Development Workshops