



ROLE OF GOVERNING COUNCILS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL POLYTECHNICS



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**RETREAT FOR THE RECONSTITUTED GOVERNING COUNCILS
OF FEDERAL POLYTECHNICS**

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Preamble



- This presentation seeks to share with you the rudiments in tertiary institutional governance, bearing in mind your rich background.
- A retreat helps to expose you to the vagaries of governance in federal institutions particularly as you are drawn from various organs and agencies.
- I felicitate with you on your appointment as Chairmen and members of Councils of Federal Polytechnics.



The Governing Council



- The Governing Council of Federal Polytechnics is by law, charged with the responsibility of the general management, the overall control of finances and properties, the appointment, promotion, welfare and discipline of staff .
- It is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- It takes direction of a general character or relating generally to particular matters with regards to exercise of its functions from the minister



The Governing Council *Cont'd*



- A chief academic and administrative officer of the Polytechnic, The Rector, shall be appointed by the Minister after consultation with council.... a selection process is encapsulated in the amendment act.
- The Deputy Rector, HODs, Registrar, Bursar, Polytechnic Librarian, and any other **senior academic and administrative staff** shall be appointed by the council on the recommendations of A&PC as provided in section 3 (2) a.



Membership of the Governing Council of Federal Polytechnic



- A Chairman;
- One person to represent the Universities;
- One person to represent the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria;
- One person to represent professional bodies whose discipline are taught at the Polytechnic;
- One person selected from a federal or state public utility statutory corporation;
- One person of standing in the community where the Polytechnic is situate;



Membership of the Governing Council of Federal Polytechnic *Cont'd*



- One representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;
- One representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry charged with responsibility for matters relating to industries;
- One representative of the Academic Board of the Polytechnic;
- One representative of the state Commissioner of Education;
- Five other persons, at least one of whom shall be a woman to be selected each on his personal merit based on his contribution to either the development of Industry, Technology or special interest in Technical Education; and
- The Rector of the Polytechnic.



Membership of the Governing Council of Federal Polytechnic *Cont'd*



- A member of the Governing Council shall hold office for a period of 3 years beginning with date for which he is appointed and shall be eligible for reappointment for a further period of 3 years and no more;
- Members of council shall be paid remuneration or allowances in accordance with rates specified from time to time by Federal Executive Council



Remuneration of Members of GC



- Council members are entitled to the following remunerations based on the extant circulars:
 - Sitting Allowance:
 - Chairman N85,000.00
 - Members N65,000.00
 - Transport (Air, returned)
 - Chairman N100,000.00
 - Members N68,000.00
 - Transport (Road)
 - Chairman KM x N20 x 2
 - Members KM x N20 x 2
 - DTA
 - Chairman N20,000.00/day
 - Members N20,000.00/day



Federal Polytechnic Law

The laws establishing the Federal Polytechnics are:

- Federal Polytechnics Act No. 33 of 1979; and
- The Federal Polytechnic Amendment Act of 1993.



Historical Development



- Yaba College of Technology 1947 Federal
- Kaduna Polytechnic 1956 Federal
- IMT Enugu 1965 State
- The Polytechnic Ibadan 1970 State
- Auchu Polytechnic 1973 Federal
- **Kwara State Polytechnic 1973 State**
- Benue State Polytechnic 1976 State
- Kano State Polytechnic 1976 State
- Ramat Polytechnic 1976 State
- Waziri Umaru Fed. Poly 1976 Federal
- Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti 1977 Federal



Summary of Polytechnics and Similar Technical Institutions in Nigeria



S/N	Institution Type	Ownership			Total
		Federal	State	Private	
1.	Polytechnics	28	42	42	112
2.	Colleges of Agriculture	19	16	0	35
3.	Colleges of Health Sciences	18	12	5	35
4.	Specialized Institutions	21	3	2	26
5.	Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs)	4	2	138	144
6.	Technical Colleges	17	151	3	171
7.	Vocational Enterprise Institutions (VEIs)	1	0	75	76
8.	Others (If Any)	0	0	0	0
Total		108	226	265	599



Nigerian Polytechnic



- The Polytechnic is a higher institution set up primarily to produce higher and lower manpower for the national economy;
- By its establishment, government desires that the nation's drive towards technological development would be attained at a somewhat fast pace;
- Its graduate should prove themselves worthy men and women who are able to use their brains adeptly as they can apply hands;
- These ideals must be reflected in the type of training and knowledge graduates are exposed to , all in a desire to build a dynamic and prosperous nation



Objectives of Polytechnic Education



- Social Objectives;
- Economic Objectives
- Political Objectives
- Technological Objectives
- Educational Objectives



Social Objectives



- To uphold the best social values and norms of our society;
- To promote the concept of social responsibility within its immediate and external environment;
- Promote the physical, mental and social well-being of its graduates;
- To foster the spirit of self-discipline and self-sacrifice as being propagated in the on-going War Against Indiscipline;
- To encourage the preservation and development of human values and respect for fellow human beings



Economic Objectives



- According to the document “2nd National Development Plan 1975-79” the economic objectives of the nation are to build
 - A united, strong and self-reliant nation
 - A just and egalitarian society
 - A great and dynamic economy; and
 - A land to bright and full opportunities for all its citizens
- To achieve the goals set out, the Polytechnic should be able to produce competent technicians of the right caliber and in the right quantity that would sustain the national economy



Political Objectives



- The Government intention in setting up the Polytechnic must be seen as a means of achieving national cohesion in the process of nation-building. It is essential for the Polytechnic to aim at promoting national consciousness and consequently strengthening the unity of the country. i.e, the political objectives are primarily oriented to;
 - Identify and promote civic responsibility among Nigerians;
 - Inculcate in its students/graduates the spirit of tolerance of the divergent shades of opinion



Political Objectives *Cont'd*



- Promote the notion of unity in diversity
- Mobilize its students/graduates towards the achievement of national goals
- Promote the concept of social justice which hinges on the rights and obligation of the individual student in the institutions and same be extended to the larger Nigerian Society
- Create the right political awareness among its students/graduates



Technological Objectives



With the abundant natural and human resources with which Nigeria is endowed, there is a crying need for the exploration of these resources to the nation's advantage by the acquisition and development of technology. As these objectives should be seen a pivot on which the existence of the Polytechnic hinges, the institution should endeavour;

- To keep abreast of all technological developments. In this regard, the Polytechnic should be able to convince government of the need to fund applied research adequately;
- To promote and encourage the study of technology-based discipline;



Technological Objectives *Cont'd*



- To emphasize self-reliance by striving to improve indigenous technology;
- To encourage in its graduates a scientific and rational approach to life in general by exposing them to the ideals of objectivity and balanced thinking;



Educational Objectives



Since it is the desire of government in setting up the polytechnic to have the twin goals of academic excellence as well as meeting the manpower requirements of the national economy, the educational objectives will be seen largely in the institution's attempt to produce competent higher and lower technicians.

- To strive for excellence in education through acceptable curricula that are designed to produce well-groomed graduates
- To endeavour to expose students to such educational standards and programmes that are designed to improve their competitive advantage



Educational Objectives *Cont'd*



- To acquire sufficient facilities, both in physical and human terms, and rationalize their use with a view to giving the best instructional training to its graduates
- To encourage meaningful interaction between staff and students both in-house and externally
- To encourage its staff to contribute to learned journals/publications and also create an atmosphere conducive to publication of text-books and reading materials, scientific enquiry and inventions for the greater glory of the Polytechnic in particular and that of the nation in general



Key Players In Federal Polytechnics Administration

- **The Visitor –**
 - The Minister of Education;
 - not a member of the Institution;
 - link between Government and the Institution;
 - attends the convocation ceremonies; and
 - directs the five yearly Visitation.



The Governing Council



- Highest governance organ of the Institution;
- It oversees the activities of the Institution;
- It superintend over all matters in the institution;
- Reports directly to the Minister



Management



- Ensures day-to-day administration of the Institution;
- Consist of Principal Officers that include:
 - Rector;
 - Deputy Rector;
 - Registrar;
 - Bursar;
 - Librarian



Academic Board



- Responsible for the direction and Management of all academic matters in the polytechnic;
- Membership consist of :
 - Rector;
 - Deputy Rector
 - All Heads of Academic Departments;
 - Polytechnic Librarian;
 - Not more than 2 members of the academic staff, other than HODs who may be appointed by the Academic Board;
 - Registrar is the Secretary.



National Board for Technical Education (NBTE)



- Principal organ of Federal Ministry of Education
- Coordinate all aspects of Technical and Vocational Education falling outside University Education.
- It was established by Act No. 9 of 11th January, 1977.



Functions of the Board

- The functions of the Board are derived in its enabling Act No. 9 of 11th January, 1977
- Education/National Minimum Standard and Establishment of Institution Act No. 16 of August 1985 and Act No. 9 of 1993.
- The functions of the Board as contained in its enabling Decree 9 of 1977 are as follows:



Functions of the Board *Cont'd*

- advise the Federal Government on, and co-ordinate all aspects of technical and vocational education falling outside the universities;
- determine, after consultation with such other bodies, the skilled manpower needs of the country in the industrial, commercial and other relevant fields.....;
-in particular to prepare periodic master plans for the balanced and coordinated development of polytechnics and such plans shall include;
 - the general programmes to be pursued by polytechnics in order to maximize the use of available facilities and avoid unnecessary duplication;
 - recommendations for the establishment and location of new polytechnics.



Functions of the Board *cont'd*

- inquire into and advise the Federal Government on the financial needs, both recurrent and capital, of polytechnics and other technical institutions;
- receive block grants from the Federal Government and allocate them to polytechnics in accordance with such formula as may be laid down by the Federal Executive Council;
- act as the agency for channeling all external aid to polytechnics in Nigeria;
- advise on, and take steps to harmonise entry requirements and duration of courses at technical institutions;



Functions of the Board *Cont'd*



- The recent acts extended the functions of NBTE to include:
 - the establishment and maintenance of minimum standards in polytechnics and other technical institutions in the Federation,
 - accreditation of academic programmes in all technical and vocational education (TVE) institutions for the purpose of award of national certificates and diplomas and other similar awards



Functions of the Governing Council



- a. Enter into contracts to carry out the Institution's activities;
- b. Demand and receive fees from students with prior approval of the Minister;
- c. Recruit right caliber staff and determine career structure;
- d. Invest funds of the Institution securities specified by law in Nigeria, or as approved by the Minister;
- e. Hold public lectures, undertake printing , publishing and bookselling;
- f. Borrow money as may be authorized by the Minister;
- g. Make gifts for any charitable cause.
- h. Etc, etc, etc



Role of Governing Councils in Federal Polytechnics



- Serve as a bridge between the Government and the Institution.
- Act as police to ensure the protection of the rights of all in the Academic community.
- Serves as appellate in cases of disputes between Management and Staff
- Act as an Ombudsman to ensure efficient financial and material management, monitoring, strong internal auditing and safe custody of the Institution finances and properties.
- Ensure compliance to Government extant policies and regulations
- Act as the judge to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to ensure stable Academic calendar and crises free environment.



Role of Governing Councils in Federal Polytechnics *Cont'd*



- Quality control expert to ensure that Institutions adhere to their mandate
(Polytechnics – provide full-time courses in technology, applied science management and other field of studies)
(FCE – teach/train Teachers) .
- Serve as a link between Town and Gown (the Institution and the Community).
- Act as front line Ambassadors to sell the image of the Institution.
- Act as salesmen and agents to connect with public and private sector, Legislature etc to garner financial support or political sympathy on related issues that will assist the Institution.



Working Tools of the Governing Council



Governing Councils require and should make use of working tools to facilitate the performance of their duties for efficiency and effectiveness. Such institutional working tools include copies of the following:

- a. The Nigerian Constitution;
- b. The Act establishing the Polytechnics and other relevant Acts, e.g PenCom Act 2004 and Public Procurement Act 2007
- c. The Conditions of service for both the Senior and junior Staff;
- d. The Rules and Regulations of the Institution;
- e. The Public Service Rules;
- f. The Bye Laws;
- g. The Financial regulations and applicable circulars;
- h. The Accounting Manuals; etc.



Words of Advice



- The following key points would assist the Governing Councils have a successful tenure in office:
 - Protect the finances and properties of your Institution;
 - Show leadership by example; take only what is your due or entitlements;
 - Minimize the cost of running Government business;
 - Ensure accountability and transparency in the use of public funds. Deploy funds wisely;
 - Adhere to your Institution carrying capacity – overcrowding creates the survival of the fittest. Management should not over enroll students in the search for internally generated revenue (IGR)



Words of Advice *Cont'd*



- Exercise caution in the employment of non- critical staff – the system is not immune to the financial meltdown. The last employee to come will be the first to leave.
- Ensure collective decision – making through dialogue.
- Union activities and opposing views complement the system. Do not witch hunt; the beauty of the academia is freedom of expression.
- Reduce the incidence of stagnation in career progression, conduct promotion of eligible staff when they are due
- Promote through scholarship never let them perish, assist them to publish.
- Ensure capacity building of staff to enhance productivity



Words of Advice *Cont'd*



- Promote a dynamic academic environment scholarly debate, research, new inventions, etc
- Review incentives and privileges to attract new academics and keep old one – vibrant study leave policy, fair cost sharing in consult revenue.
- Resist the temptation to wade into purely management functions.
- Issues of procurement and award of contracts rest with the institution's Tenders Board. For procurement above the Rector/Provost approval power but within the Institution's approval threshold after due process, it will be in the interest of the Rector/Provost to seek Council's ratification and approval before implementation.
- The appointment of the representative of the Host Community in the Council of Federal Polytechnics should be the responsibility of the community leaders and not that of Rector or Governing Council.



THANK YOU