



Promoting Excellence for All

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TACTICAL PLAN OVERVIEW

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CREATION OF COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Commission on Higher Education was created in 1994 as part of the Higher Education Restructuring Act, which has been modified somewhat over the years. The act provided greater autonomy for colleges and universities and established two new entities, the Commission and the Presidents' Council, while placing ultimate responsibility for the governance of institutions with individual trustee boards.

See Attachment A for more detailed description of the governance structure.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Commission comprises six members appointed by the Governor with consent of the Senate; one member appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Senate President, with consent of the Senate; one member appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the Assembly, with consent of the Senate; one faculty member appointed by the Governor, with consent of the Senate; two students appointed by the Governor; the chair of the Presidents' Council, ex-officio; the chair of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, ex-officio; and the executive director of the Commission, ex-officio and nonvoting.

See Attachment B for a list of current members.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commission is charged with statewide policy and planning, institutional licensure, information and research dissemination, advocacy for higher education, and administration of various programs.

The Commission's work is generally organized within four main areas: Policy and Planning, Advocacy and Initiatives, Administration, and Agency Operations.

See Attachment C for a chart of responsibilities within the four areas.

STAFF ORGANIZATION CHART

The Commission has recently revised the organization of staff responsibilities and positions. Fiscal constraints over the past several years resulted in a reduction in state employees from a total of 23 to 17 and one vacancy (in addition to two federal GEAR UP employees). The new organization is designed to maximize resources and teamwork to undertake the Commission's responsibilities.

See Attachment D for the organization chart.

COMMITMENT TO STAKEHOLDERS

THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING EXCELLENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS AND SOCIETY.

PRIMARY DRIVERS OF OUR WORK

Leadership – Quality – Integrity – Collaboration – Accountability

TACTICAL APPROACH TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENT

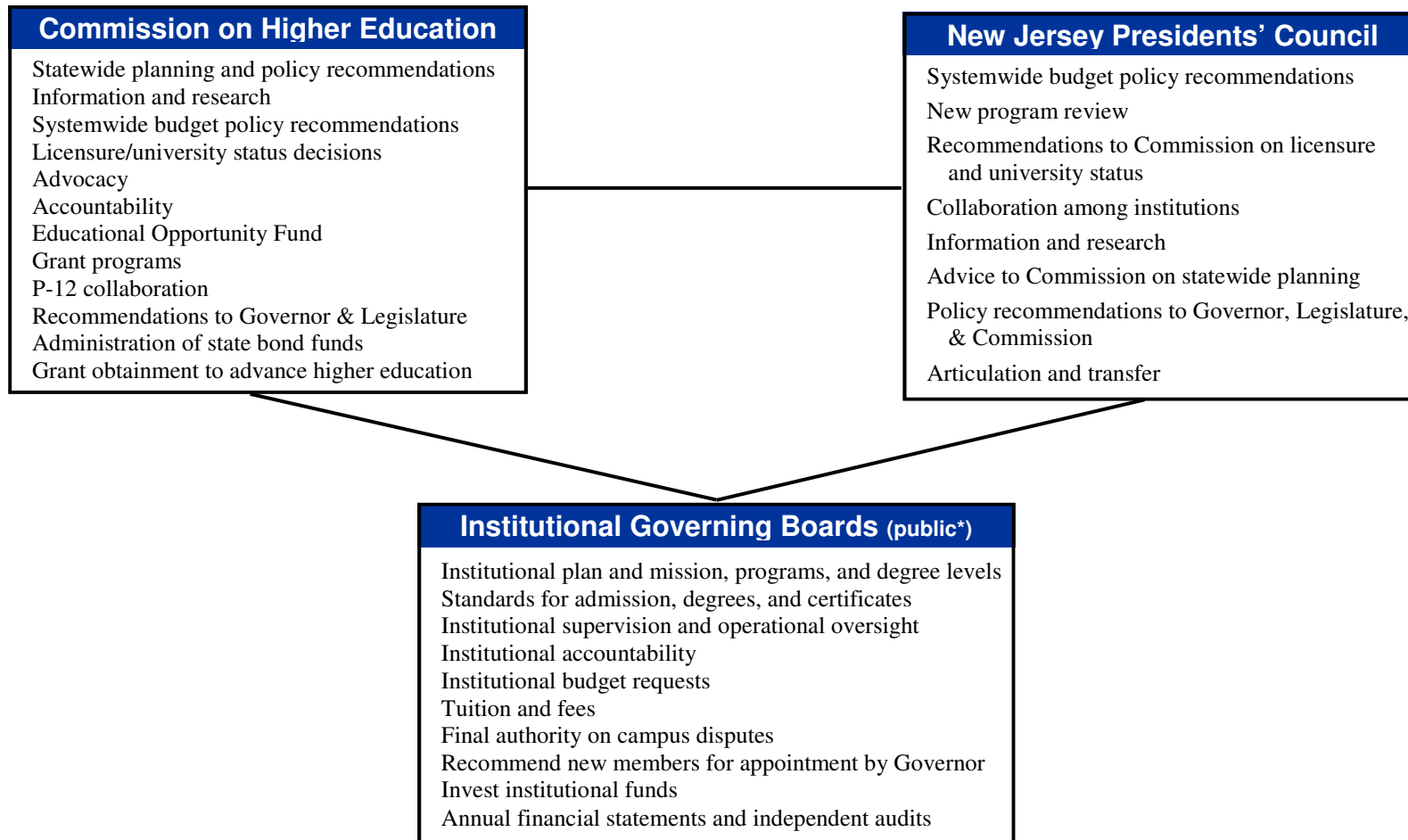
- **COORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW JERSEY'S LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOCUSING ON THE PRIMARY PUBLIC AGENDA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**
 - Improve access and outcomes for students from preschool to graduate school
 - Enhance the economy through research and workforce development

- **SERVE AS CATALYST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**
 - Provide reliable and relevant information, data, and analysis
 - Define key issues
 - Engage stakeholders in dialogue
 - Relate educational attainment to the state's economic/societal concerns

- **BUILD COALITIONS AND PROMOTE COLLABORATION TO ACHIEVE STATE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- **RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF NEW JERSEY HIGHER EDUCATION AND ITS VALUE TO THE STATE AND ITS PEOPLE**

New Jersey's Governance Structure for Higher Education



* - Governing boards of private institutions have similar responsibilities, with the exception of recommending new members to the Governor.

Closely Related State Agencies

Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (administers financial assistance programs)
 Educational Facilities Authority (provides financing for capital needs)
 Department & State Board of Education (collaborates on common issues)

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Susan L. Blount, Esq.

Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Prudential Financial, Inc.
751 Broad Street, 21st Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
973-802-7001 / 973-802-3876 (Fax)

Dr. Adrian Marcia DeWindt-King

Cumberland County College
3322 College Drive
P.O. Box 1500
Vineland, NJ 08362-1500
856-691-8600 Ext. 329 / 856-691-9489 (Fax)

Mr. Laurence M. Downes

Chairman and CEO
NJ Resources Corporation
1415 Wyckoff Road, PO Box 1468
Wall, NJ 07719
732-938-1483 / 732-919-0517 (Fax)

Mr. Edward J. Graham, Chair

Chairman, President & CEO
South Jersey Industries
1 South Jersey Plaza
Folsom, NJ 08037
609-567-4000 Ext. 4274 / 609-561-7130 (Fax)

Sister Rosemary Jeffries (Presidents' Council)

President
Georgian Court University
900 Lakewood Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701-2697
732-987-2252 / 732-987-2018 (Fax)

Mr. Kurt Landgraf, Vice Chair

President
Educational Testing Service
Rosedale Road
Princeton, NJ 08541
609-734-1010 / 609-921-0235 (Fax)

Dr. Edward McDonnell

VP for Economic Development & Govt. Relations
Camden County College, William G. Rohrer Center
1889 Route 70 East
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
856-874-6025 / 856-874-6026 (Fax)

Ms. Marguerite Beardsley

Acting Executive Director
Commission on Higher Education
PO Box 542
Trenton, NJ 08625-0542
609-292-2955 / 609-292-7225 (Fax)

Dr. Norman Samuels

University Professor & Provost Emeritus
Rutgers University
123 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102-3094
973-353-3287 / 973-353-5896 (Fax)

Ms. Maria Ivette Torres (HESAA Chair)

7355 Driftwood Lane
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
609-625-2788

Steven D. Weinstein, Esq.

NJ Resident Partner
Blank Rome LLP
301 Carnegie Center – 3rd Floor
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-750-7708 / 609-897-7396 (Fax)

Policy & Planning

Develop long-range plan for higher education—Initiate policy discussions, communicate broadly, facilitate implementation/workplans, update regularly, assess progress periodically

Conduct research & studies—Maintain federal & state data systems, enhance data analysis, stimulate policy discussions, collect reports from institutions or other data as needed, conduct studies independently or upon request

Consult on higher education issues with: Presidents' Council, HESAA, broader higher education community, administration & Legislature, business community, federal government

Serve on state and other commissions, task forces, committees

Define institution profile form & content—Review annually, adopt in May

Review requests for state support

Administration

Administer—Licensure process, Educational Opportunity Fund, Minority Faculty Advancement & minority undergraduate & fellowship programs, Special Needs, College Bound, Education of Language Minority Students, GEAR UP, and targeted grant programs, Capital bond funds

Establish & implement regulations concerning: Institutional licensure, University status, Programmatic mission, Model code of ethics, Capital bond funds, Domicile for purposes of in-state tuition, Criteria for chargeback between counties, EOF, Minority Faculty Advancement Program and Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Establishment of a county community college, certain community college personnel policies

Respond to requests for information

Apportion & distribute federal funds made available for higher education

Advocacy & Initiatives

Communicate needs & accomplishments

Articulate perspectives on key issues

Develop annual budget statement—Initiate early and consult with Presidents' Council

Recommend initiatives & initiate programs

Seek grants to advance higher education

Communicate with: Commissioners, Presidents' Council and individual presidents, Governor and staff, Legislature and staff, College and university trustees, Other institutional representatives, State Board/Dept. of Education, HESAA, other state agencies, Federal government, other stakeholders

Increase P-20 coordination & collaboration—ongoing working relationship with Commissioner of Education and staff, improve alignment from high school to college

Agency Operation

Develop a tactical plan—Continually refine

Manage Commission budget—Meet objectives with available resources, comply with all requirements and procedures

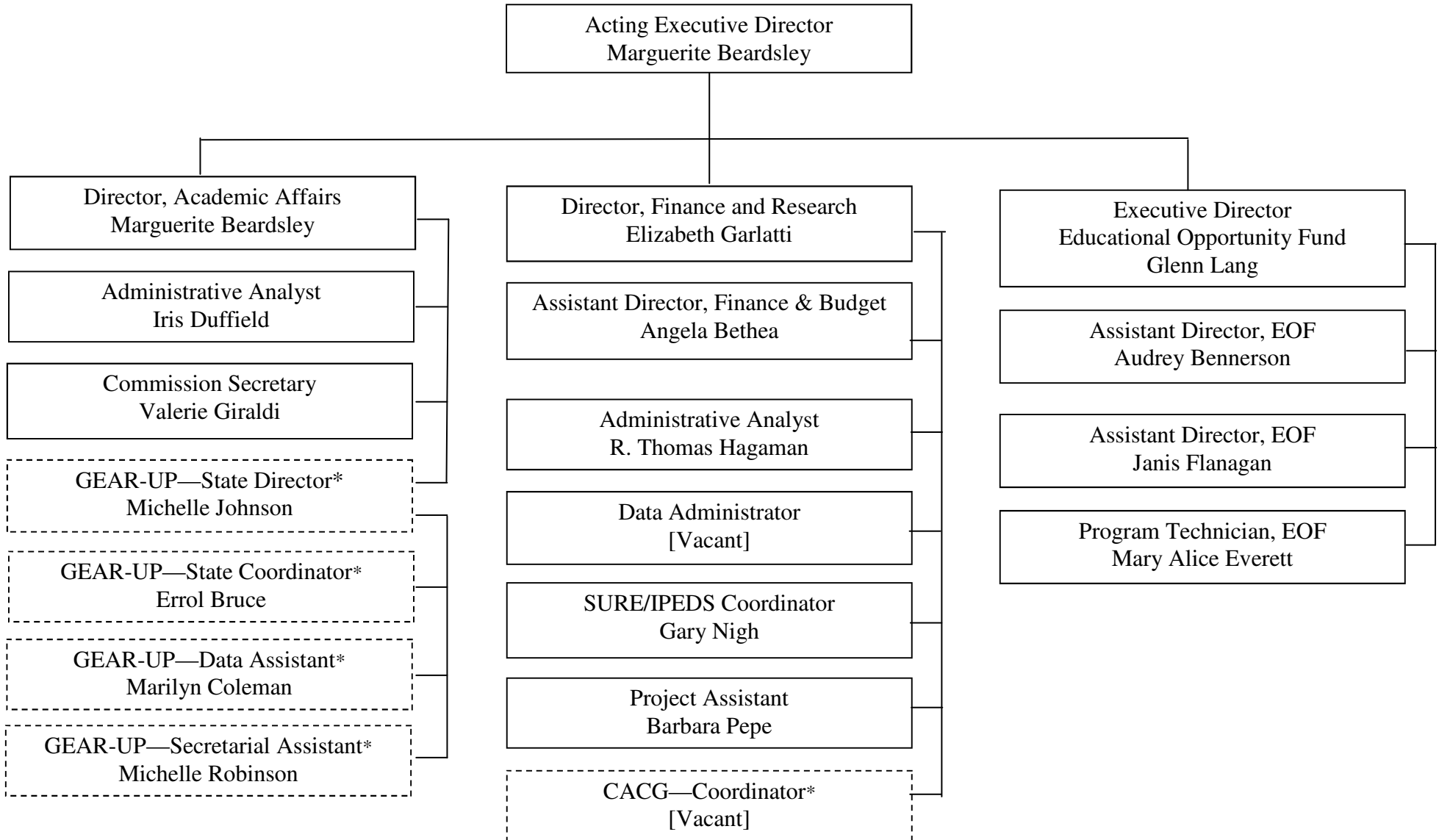
Adhere to state & federal personnel policy

Undertake staffing and assessment responsibilities—Organize work and responsibilities, evaluate personnel, provide professional development

Develop relationships, constituencies, coalitions

Be accountable—Annually assess Commission's progress in implementing tactical plan and maintain commitment to major drivers

New Jersey Commission on Higher Education Organization Chart



* Required by federal grant contract