



Higher Education, Management & Public Policy Consulting

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HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE REIMAGINED: DRIVING GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION AND STRATEGY

13 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Hosted by:

York University, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada

- Management & Public Policy Consulting & Capacity Building
- Higher Education Consulting & Capacity Building
- Institutional & Leadership Development
- Conference Services & Documentation
- Biographies, Autobiographies & Corporate History

Introduction

We are pleased to invite Higher Education Policy Makers to participate in this one-week high level workshop on Higher Education Governance Reimagined: Driving Growth Through Strategy and Innovation, with special focus on the Role of Council.

Background

The contemporary landscape of higher education in Nigeria demands that higher institutions evolve from being merely administrative entities to becoming agile, strategic, and innovative institutions. The Governing Council, as the apex policy and governance body, holds the pivotal mandate to steer this transformation. This one-week intensive workshop is designed to equip Council Members with the advanced knowledge, frameworks, and collaborative tools necessary to effectively discharge their oversight, strategic, and fiduciary responsibilities. Focusing on the triad of **Strategy, Innovation, and Expertise**, the workshop will deepen the Council's understanding of its role in fostering sustainable institutional growth, enhancing competitiveness, and ensuring the higher institutions relevance in the 21st century.

Rationale

The effectiveness of a Governing Council is directly correlated to institutional performance. In a context of limited resources, rapid technological change, and increasing demands for quality and accountability, Council Members must move beyond routine oversight to proactive, strategic guidance. This workshop addresses the need for a shared vision and modern governance praxis within the Council.

Key Objectives

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

1. **Articulate a Clear Strategic Governance Role:** Define and internalize the distinct yet complementary roles of Council vs. Management in driving institutional strategy.
2. **Master Strategic Planning & Oversight:** Acquire skills to critically review, refine, and monitor the implementation of the institution's Strategic Plan, ensuring alignment with national educational goals (e.g., NUC's, NBTE's and NCCE's benchmarks) and global best practices.
3. **Champion Innovation & Digital Transformation:** Explore the Council's role in fostering a culture of innovation in teaching, research, administration, and revenue generation, including the adoption of educational technology (EdTech).
4. **Leverage Expertise for Effective Governance:** Enhance capabilities in financial stewardship, risk management, performance evaluation (of the institution and Principal Officers), and ethical leadership.
5. **Build a Cohesive & High-Performing Council:** Strengthen internal collaboration, communication, and committee effectiveness to present a united, strategic front.

Expected Outcomes & Deliverables

1. A **"Council Governance Action Charter"** outlining specific priorities for the next 12-18 months.
2. Enhanced **personal competence and collective confidence** of Council members.
3. A **refreshed perspective** on the Institution's Strategic Plan with clear suggestions for refinement.

4. Strengthened **internal networks and communication protocols** within the Council.

Note: *In addition to the teaching components, the programme includes a Social Night, Guided Tours of host city and other self-directed learning activities.*

Teaching/Learning Modules

The core teaching/learning components will address the following themes:

- Foundation & Strategic Foresight: The Strategic Council – Setting the Direction for Growth
- Innovation & Stewardship: The Innovative & Accountable Council
- Expertise, Dynamics & Forward Action: The Effective Council – Building Cohesion and Delivering Impact

Target Participants

All Statutory and Appointed Members of the Governing Council including:

- The Council Chairman
- The Vice-Chancellor / Rectors/Provosts
- Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Rectors, Deputy Provosts
- External Council Members (representing industry, profession, community)
- Internal Members (e.g., Senate, Academic Boards and Congregation representatives)
- Special invitees: Registrar/Secretary to Council, University, Polytechnic and College Librarian, Bursar, Key Staff supporting the Council

Workshop Methodology

The workshop will be highly interactive, participatory, and solution-focused, moving beyond lectures to actionable outcomes.

Methods will include:

- **Expert Presentations:** By seasoned academics, governance experts, and industry leaders.
- **Case Studies & Scenario Analysis:** Nigerian and international university cases on governance success and challenges.
- **Breakout Group Work:** Council Committees (e.g., Finance & GPC, Academics & Research, Establishment, etc.) to tackle specific, real-world university issues.
- **Panel Discussions:** Featuring former and current Council Chairpersons, chief executives of institutions and representatives of regulatory agencies.
- **Experience Sharing, Peer Exchange & Networking Sessions:** Structured sharing of experiences among members.
- **Action Planning Sessions:** Development of a Council Governance Work Plan.

Facilitators

Our firm, QRS Associates, Inc., has over a decade of experience delivering governance and ethics training to university Councils and boards across Nigeria, at locations within and outside the country. The training will be facilitated by experienced professionals in higher education governance, leadership development, public sector ethics, and university finance. Our facilitators include former chief executives of tertiary institutions and other former and current seasoned higher-education governance experts, ensuring practical relevance and immediate applicability.

Date: September 13 -19, 2026 (Toronto, Canada). Dates for other locations to be announced. In addition, bespoke versions for institutions can be held onsite on agreed dates.

Venue: Executive Learning and Conference Center, Schulich School of Business, York University, 56 Fine Arts Road, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada. The Executive Learning Centre is conveniently located on the York University Main Campus; only 20 minutes from Pearson International Airport and easily accessible by car or public transit.

Hotel Accommodation: The Executive Learning Center operates a 60-room hotel standard accommodation on site. In addition, there are several hotels within the proximity of the University Campus. We would be glad to provide a list and contact details of nearby hotels to participants who require information on hotel accommodation.

Program Fee

The training fee per participant is \$1925. This covers workshop materials, participation in training sessions, tea breaks and lunch on training days, participation in Group Dinner and Guided City Tour and Certification.

Payment Details: Account details for payment would be made available upon acceptance of request for registration.

To Participate/Enquiries

For registration and enquiries, please call +16674030039 (USA/Canada), +14379903303 (Dewumi/Canada) and +2348137193838 (Nigeria) or e-mail: admin@qrsassociates.org (with copy to qrsassociates@outlook.com.) Please visit www.qrsassociates.org for additional details.

Thank you.



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THANK YOU