

QUESTIONS FOR PRAIRIE PRESIDENTS PANEL

Perhaps begin with a summary of your own experience as a president working with board chairs—e.g. how many board chairs have you had, how long did you work with them, etc.

The reflect on some of the following (these are suggestions—we can talk over breakfast about whether each of you wants to talk about all of them, or which ones you'd particularly like to address, or whether there are other things you each want to say....

- What is the best thing that a Board Chair can do to help a new president transition into the role?
- What kind of access to your board chair do you need (frequency, medium of communication, level of frankness)? For example, what contact do you need with your board chair before and after every board meeting, and between meetings? What's the best way to get that contact?
- How engaged do you want your board chair to be with your vice presidents? With your avp's and deans? Are there interactions with your administration or administrative offices that you would consider to be inappropriate or see as interference?
- What do you see as the role of the University Secretary vis-à-vis the board chair? For example, is there a role for the Secretary in 'mediating' the relationship between the president and the board chair?
- If the chancellor is a member of your board, what do you see as the role of the Chancellor vis-à-vis the board chair?
- What does a president need from a board chair in terms of the following:
 - Board room dynamics
 - The role of the faculty and staff member(s) and/or student(s) on the board
 - The media
 - Labour relations
- When a new board chair is about to take over, what would you want them to know/understand about the role?
- If there is one thing you would never want to hear from your board chair, what would it be?

--Lea Pennock (session moderator)