Board of Trustees Data-Informed Governance Framework

Data-informed governance involves using data and analytics to guide the college's decision-making process that aligns with the college's goals, vision, and strategic plan. It emphasizes the importance of incorporating relevant data and insights into the decision-making process to enhance the quality and effectiveness of decisions. When a Board of Trustees realizes the full value of the college data, all Board members are empowered to make better governance and policy decisions informed by data.

Here are key steps and considerations for a Board of Trustees in data-informed decision-making to promote sustainable college improvement.

1. **The Board Defines Clear Objectives**
   - Clearly articulate the goals and objectives of the decision-making process.
   - Ensure that the objectives align with the overall mission and vision of the college.
2. **The Board Defines Goals for the Identification of Data**
   - Determine what questions the data needs to answer to inform the decision.
   - Consider the type of data (quantitative and qualitative, snapshot and trend)
3. **The Board Requests the CEO and Team to Collect and Visualize the Data**
   - Gather the identified data through appropriate methods.
   - Utilize statistical and analytical tools to analyze the data.
   - Use data visualization techniques such as charts, graphs, and dashboards to make complex data more understandable.
   - Visualization can help in conveying information quickly and effectively.
4. **The Board and CEO Partner in Sense-Making of the Data Analysis**
   - Look for patterns, trends, and insights that can inform the decision.
   - Understand the who, what, when, where, and why of the data analysis.
   - Communicate the findings of the data analysis in a clear and accessible format.
   - Obtain input and feedback from relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the situation.
5. **The Board Considers Context and Expertise**
   - Take into account the broader context in which the decision is being considered.
   - Balance quantitative data with qualitative insights and the expertise of individuals involved.
6. **The Board Makes Informed Governance Decisions**
   - Use the insights gained from the data analysis to make well-informed governance decisions.
   - Consider the risks and uncertainties associated with the decision.
7. **The Board Takes Action and Evaluates**
   - Implement the decision and monitor its outcomes.
   - Evaluate the success of the decision against the defined objectives.
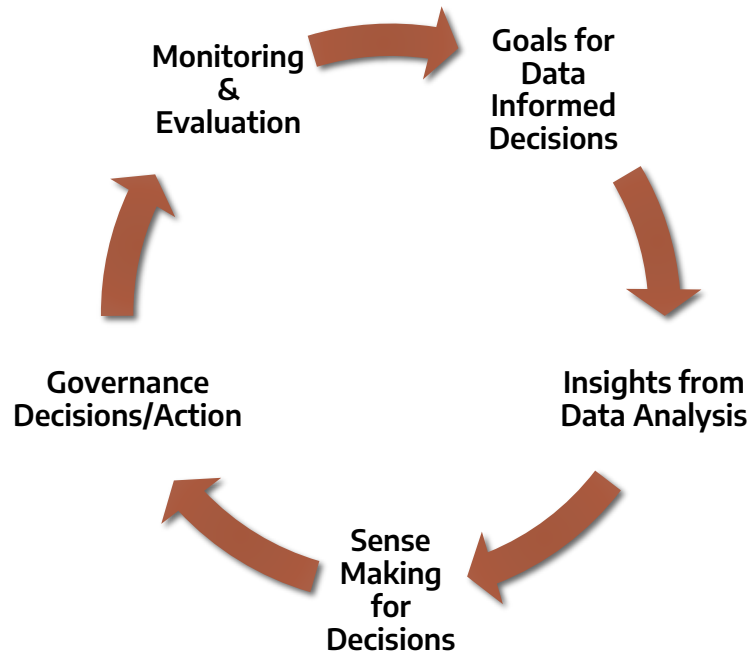   - Use feedback and ongoing data to adjust policies as needed.
8. **The Board Builds a Data Culture**
   - Foster a culture within the Board of Trustees and the college that values and prioritizes data.
   - Encourage continuous learning and improvement based on data insights.

9. **The Board Insists on Privacy and Ethical Considerations**
   - Ensure that data usage adheres to ethical and legal standards and respect privacy concerns.
   - Be transparent about how data is used in the decision-making process.

Data-informed decision-making is a dynamic process that involves an iterative cycle of data collection, analysis, decision-making, action, monitoring, and evaluation.

References

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