

Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: August 6, 2024
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board
Subject: **Elections for Chair Elect**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

Annually, at the August Governing Board (Board) meeting, the Board customarily elects a new Chair Elect. This year no members submitted a statement of intent to serve in that role. Therefore, at this meeting, the Board can opt to approve an Interim Chair Elect.

Requested Action:

After review and consideration of this staff report, Staff recommends that the Board approve Robert Tagorda as the Interim Chair Elect, and add succession planning revisions to the Governance Manual to the scope of work for the Governance Manual Review Committee.

- ❖ Move to approve Robert Tagorda as the Interim Chair Elect, and include succession planning revisions to the Governance Manual as noted in this staff report to the scope of work for the Governance Manual Review Committee.

Background:

The [Governance Manual](#) states that "the Board will elect a Chair to serve two-year staggered terms. In the first year of the term, the newly elected Chair Elect will support the existing Presiding Chair and in the second year of the term, the Chair Elect will become the Presiding Chair. The Chair Elect and the Presiding Chair may not be from the same institution. All eligible Board members who are interested in serving as the Chair Elect will submit a statement of interest for discussion and a vote at the first Governing Board meeting of each fiscal year" (page 21).

Responsibilities of the Chair Elect:

Per the Governance Manual, “the Chair Elect will be responsible for convening topical committees for tasks such as appointing Advisory Board members, onboarding new Governing Board members, conducting exit interviews with outgoing Governing Board members, and working with the Office to onboard new Advisory Board members. The Presiding Chair and Chair Elect may adjust specific division of tasks between themselves as needed” (page 22).

2024 Elections for Chair Elect:

Robert Tagorda, Outgoing Chair of the Board, is transitioning out of leadership and Gavin Payne is the new Chair of the Board. Given this transition, there will be a vacancy in the Chair Elect position. This year, Statements of Interest were due to the Office on July 19; however, the Office did not receive any from Board members.

Due to the critical need for a Chair Elect and in an effort to maintain consistent Board leadership to benefit from historical knowledge, Chair Payne has requested that Member Tagorda serve as the Interim Chair Elect. If approved, Member Tagorda’s continued involvement as the Interim Chair Elect will provide stability, guidance, and aid to the Chair. A vacancy in this position would increase the workload to both the Chair and the Office.

Revisions to the Governance Manual:

The way in which the Chair and Chair Elect positions are currently structured in the Governance Manual necessitate that there is turnover in leadership each year. As noted above, “the Board will elect a Chair to serve two-year staggered terms. In the first year of the term, the newly elected Chair Elect will support the existing Presiding Chair and in the second year of the term, the Chair Elect will become the Presiding Chair”. This model builds in annual turnover in leadership and does not contemplate the current situation where no members are interested in performing a leadership function.

Based on the situation and reasons noted above, it is recommended that the language in the Governance Manual be updated during its review by the Governance Manual Review Committee to propose possible updates to the chair election process.

The Board will have an opportunity to approve the formation of the Governance Manual Review Committee (Committee) at the November 15th Board meeting. Further exploration of wording and revisions will be left up to the Committee in order to address a long-term solution for continuity in Board leadership.