



Perceived Influence of Governing Councils' Roles on the Administration of Federal College of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

Doki, P. A., Dr. Idoko, A. A & Dr. Kajo, D. T.

Department of Educational Foundations and General Studies, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi

ABSTRACT

The study ascertained the perceived influence of Governing Councils' roles on the administration of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. It was guided by three (3) specific objectives, and three (3) research questions were raised and answered. Three (3) hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a survey research design. The study area is North central, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised 10367 senior academic and non-academic staff from the four Federal Colleges of Education in North Central Nigeria. The sample size for this study is 384 and it was realized using Krejcie and Morgan Table for sample size determination. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Governing Council and Administration of Federal Colleges of Education Questionnaire" (GCAFCEQ). This instrument was duly validated by five experts and Cronbach alpha reliability estimation was used to obtain a reliability coefficient of 0.71. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistic of Mean and Standard Deviation and inferential statistic of Chi-square. The result of the findings revealed that Governing Councils have positive influence on the appointment of provosts, provision of infrastructural facilities and funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. The study concluded that Governing Councils plays prominent roles in the appointment of provosts, provision of infrastructural facilities and funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. The study recommended that Governing Councils should engage in strategic, long-term infrastructure planning to address the current and future needs of the colleges.

Keywords: Governing Council, Administration, Appointment, Infrastructure, Funding

INTRODUCTION

Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes through various formal and informal methods. It involves the development of intellectual, social, emotional, and physical abilities to enable individuals to understand the world, think critically, make informed decisions, and contribute to society. Education encompasses academic learning, practical skills, and personal growth, fostering lifelong learning and personal fulfillment. According to Aikman (2012), Education plays a vital role in personal development by expanding knowledge, enhancing critical thinking, and nurturing creativity. It equips individuals with the skills and abilities needed to adapt to new situations, pursue their passions, and achieve personal goals. Education is crucial for economic empowerment at both individual and societal levels. It provides individuals with the necessary skills and qualifications to enter the job market, secure better employment opportunities, and contribute to economic growth and stability (World Bank, 2019). Education serves as a catalyst for social mobility, breaking the cycle of poverty and inequality. It provides equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic background, gender, or ethnicity, promoting social inclusion and reducing disparities (UNESCO, 2020). Education provided at tertiary institution like Colleges of Education is instrumental in developing a highly skilled and competent workforce.

Colleges of Education in Nigeria are tertiary institutions specifically established to provide teacher education and training at the post-secondary level. They focus on equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to become professional teachers and educators in various educational settings (Ihejianaizu, 2013). These colleges offer a range of academic programs and courses in education-related fields, including Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, and Technical Education. The programs typically include both theoretical and practical components, incorporating classroom instruction, teaching practice, and supervised field experiences. The primary objective of Colleges of Education is to produce competent and well-trained teachers who can effectively facilitate learning, promote educational development, and contribute to the improvement of the Nigerian education system (NCCE, 2020). The curriculum emphasizes pedagogical methods, subject content knowledge, educational psychology, classroom management, and assessment techniques.

Colleges of Education in Nigeria are regulated and overseen by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), which sets standards, guidelines, and accreditation procedures to ensure quality in teacher education. They often collaborate with universities and other educational institutions to enhance the quality of their programs and provide opportunities for further studies and professional development. Mgbekem (2012) defines governing council of Colleges of Education as the body appointed to oversee the governance structure and general administration of the College. They provide direction for the general operations of the Colleges of Education. The governing council of Colleges of Education in Nigeria is responsible for overseeing

the management, administration, and governance of these institutions (Mgbekem, 2012). The council is appointed to ensure effective leadership, accountability, and adherence to established policies and standards. The Governing Council of Colleges of Education is the most important committee of the institution. The council holds very important roles in the development of the Colleges of Education, in most cases the success or failure of any institution depends on how effective the committee members can administratively perform their functions (Mgbekem, 2012). The law enacted by Nigerian National Assembly and signed into law on the 10th July, 2003 by President Olusegun Obasanjo constituted the Governing Council as the highest administrative body of any institution in Nigeria. The Governing Council is the Colleges of Education highest administrative body with full responsibility and control of the finances and the custodian of all the properties of the college. The governing council has several key administrative functions and responsibilities, which may include; appointment of provost, provision of infrastructural facilities, funding, staff recruitment, staff development and staff discipline.

The role of the governing council in the appointment of provosts in colleges of education in Nigeria is crucial in ensuring transparency, accountability, and the selection of qualified individuals for leadership positions. According Ibrahim (2015), the governing council plays a vital role in approving the vacancy for the position of provost in a college of education. When a vacancy arises, the council is responsible for initiating the process of selecting a new provost. The governing council establishes a selection committee or panel to oversee the appointment process. This committee typically consists of members from the council, college staff, and external experts. The council, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, defines the criteria and qualifications required for the position of provost. This ensures that the selection process is based on merit and the specific needs of the institution (Adekunle, 2019). The governing council ensures that the advertisement reaches a wide range of potential candidates and that the shortlisting process is fair and transparent. The council, through the selection committee, conducts interviews of the shortlisted candidates. They assess the candidates based on the predetermined criteria and qualifications. After the interviews, the council recommends the most suitable candidate for appointment as the provost (Abdullahi, 2017). The governing councils are also saddle with other responsibilities like the provision of infrastructural and human resources.

Provision of infrastructural facilities within the colleges of education is one of the responsibilities of governing council. These encompass planning, allocation of resources, and ensuring the availability of adequate infrastructure to support effective teaching, learning, and research (Ukase, 2011). The governing council is involved in long-term strategic planning for the development and expansion of infrastructural facilities in colleges of education. They work in collaboration with college management and other stakeholders to assess the institution's needs and develop plans to address them (Adetunji, 2015). The council is responsible for allocating financial resources for infrastructure development. They review budget proposals and prioritize funding for infrastructure projects based on the institution's requirements and available resources. The governing council approves major infrastructure projects and ensures their effective implementation (Akinyemi & Abiddin, 2013). This includes reviewing project proposals, evaluating feasibility studies, and monitoring the progress and quality of construction or renovation work. The council collaborates with relevant government agencies, educational bodies, and external organizations to secure additional funding and support for infrastructure development. This may involve applying for grants, seeking partnerships, or engaging in public-private partnerships to enhance infrastructure provision (Dauda, 2010). The governing councils are also saddle with the responsibility of funding the colleges.

The essential role of the governing councils of Nigerian colleges of education is to ensure the provision of funds for these institutions. Kaul (2010) asserts that governing councils are responsible for overseeing financial matters, budget allocation, and resource management to ensure the sustainable functioning and development of the colleges. The governing council collaborates with college management to prepare the annual budget for the institution. They review financial needs, assess priorities, and allocate funds to various departments, programs, and projects based on the college's objectives and strategic plans. The council is responsible for exploring and mobilizing financial resources beyond the regular budget. They engage with relevant government agencies, philanthropic organizations, private donors, and other funding sources to secure additional funds for the college's operations, infrastructure development, research activities, and student support services (Nakpodia, 2011). The governing council exercises financial oversight by monitoring the financial performance of the college. They review financial statements, audit reports, and ensure compliance with financial regulations and reporting requirements. This includes overseeing procurement processes, managing financial risks, and promoting transparency and accountability in financial transactions. The governing council participates in financial planning, including forecasting revenue, monitoring expenditure, and ensuring efficient resource utilization. They work closely with the college management to establish financial control mechanisms, budgetary guidelines, and policies to maintain financial stability and sustainability (Okechukwu, 2011).

Statement of the Problem

Colleges of Education play a vital role in ensuring the provision of quality education. By preparing well-trained and competent teachers, they contribute to the enhancement of teaching and learning practices in schools. The graduates of colleges of education become the educators who shape the future of students and impact the overall quality of education in society. Governing Councils are important in the administration of colleges of education because they are saddle with the responsibilities to provide leadership, strategic direction, accountability, and oversight in the management of colleges of education. Their actions and decisions impact the overall performance, growth, and development of the institution, ultimately benefiting the students, faculty, staff, and the larger community.

However, Colleges of Education in North Central Nigeria are faced with lots of administrative challenges. They often struggle with inadequate funding, which hampers their ability to invest in infrastructure development, instructional resources, faculty development, and student support services. Some of these institutions lack sufficient physical infrastructure, such as classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. Also, some of these institutions often fail in meeting accreditation standards and fulfilling regulatory requirements. The implications of these challenges are that the institutions will fail in fulfilling their primary responsibilities in training students' teachers who will in the nearest future become the Nation builders. What then is the role of the school

governing council who are saddle with enormous responsibilities in the management of the school like in the appointment of provost, provision of infrastructural facilities, funding, staff recruitment, staff development and staff discipline? It is on this basis that this research was necessitated to determine the influence of governing council in the administration of colleges of education in North central Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The objective of the study was to ascertain the influence of Governing Councils on the administration of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to determine the influence of governing council on the:

1. appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria.
2. provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria.
3. funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study.

1. What is the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria?
2. What is the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria?
3. What is the perceived influence of Governing Councils on funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and were tested at 0.05 level of significance

1. Governing Councils have no significant influence on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education North-Central, Nigeria.
2. Governing Councils have no significant influence on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education North-Central, Nigeria.
3. Governing Councils have no significant influence on funding in Federal Colleges of Education North-Central, Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted survey research design. The study area is North Central Nigeria. North Central Nigeria is one of the six geopolitical zones in the country and it consists of six states which include Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The population of the study comprises 10367 senior academic and non-academic staff from the four Federal Colleges of Education in North Central Nigeria (National Commission for Colleges of Education, 2021). The population is made up of 1854 staff of FCT College of Education Zuba, 2663 staff of Federal College of Education Okene, Kogi State, 2854 staff of Federal College of Education Pankshin, Plateau State and 2996 staff of Federal College of Education Kontagora, Niger State. The sample size for the study is 384 senior academic and non-academic staff from the four Federal Colleges of Education in North Central, Nigeria. The sample size was drawn using Kregcie and Morgan table for sample determination. In composing the sample for the study, multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Governing Council and Administration of Federal Colleges of Education Questionnaire" (GCAFCEQ). The questionnaire is divided into three (3) clusters (A–C). Each of the clusters comprised eight items and sought to elicit information from the respondents on the influence of Federal Colleges of Education Councils on appointment of provosts, provision of infrastructural facilities and funding respectively. The instrument consists of a 24 item questionnaire items. The questionnaire was structured based on a four-point rating scale with response option in the form of, Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) with corresponding numerical Values of 4, 3, 2, 1, respectively for positive responses. The reliability of the instrument was estimated using Cronbach Alpha method. Internal consistency reliability obtained for the questionnaire was 0.71. The direct delivery and retrieval method was used in data collection. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents with the aid of four research assistants from each of the sampled Colleges of Education. The data collected for this study were analyzed using descriptive statistic of Mean and Standard Deviation and inferential statistic of Chi-Square Goodness-of-Fit. A mean cut-off point of 2.50 was used for decision making. A mean score of item above 2.50 was considered as an agreement with the item and a mean score below 2.50 was considered as a disagreement to the item. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Wherever the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected whereas wherever the p-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

RESULTS

Research Question 1

What is the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the Perceived Influence of Governing Councils on the Appointment of Provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Make recommendation of candidates for appointment of provost.	384	2.94	0.69	Agree
2	Make investigation into any allegations made against the appointment of provost.	384	2.57	0.73	Agree
3	Take over the responsibility of appointing substantive provost.	384	2.86	0.97	Agree
4	Ensure that appointing the provost must be in line with the provisions of enabling laws.	384	2.69	0.83	Agree
5	Play major advisory roles in the appointment of the provost.	384	3.14	0.85	Agree
6	Draw up guidelines for the appoint of provosts.	384	2.89	0.77	Agree
7	Conducting interview for the appointment of the provost.	384	2.58	0.58	Agree
8	Recommend the reappointment of the provost for another tenure.	384	2.76	0.81	Agree
Grand Mean			2.81		Agree

Mean Score < than 2.50 = Disagree, Mean Score >or = 2.50 = Agree

The results presented in Table 1 revealed that all the 8 items on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria had their mean values ranged from 2.57 to 3.14, indicating that their mean values were above the mean cut-off point of 2.50. The grand mean of 2.81 shown in Table 1 indicates that Governing Councils have perceived positive influence on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. Results on Table 1 further showed that the standard deviation of the items ranged from 0.58 to 0.97, indicating that the responses of the respondents were not too far from the mean and from the opinion of one another on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

Research Question 2

What is the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria?

In answering this research question, mean and standard deviation of the responses of the respondents were computed

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the Perceived Influence of Governing Councils on the Provision of Infrastructural Facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Ensure overall provision of infrastructural facilities	384	2.95	0.89	Agree
2	Makes provision of mechanism for delivering short term infrastructural goals	384	2.87	0.94	Agree
3	Makes provision of mechanism for delivering mid-term infrastructural goals	384	2.64	0.61	Agree
4	Ensure timely intervention to salvage the decay in infrastructural facilities in the Colleges of Education.	384	2.73	0.64	Agree
5	Approves the list of funds for purchases of furniture items.	384	3.09	0.98	Agree
6	Approves the list of funds for the purchase of office equipment.	384	3.05	0.90	Agree
7	Approves the list of funds for the installation of furniture items.	384	2.69	0.62	Agree
8	Ensure procession of assistance in terms of grants to enable delivery of key infrastructures to Colleges of Education.	384	2.95	0.83	Agree
Grand Mean			2.87		Agree

Mean Score < than 2.50 = Disagree, Mean Score >or = 2.50 = Agree

The results presented in Table 2 revealed that all the 8 items on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria had their mean values ranged from 2.64 to 3.09, indicating that their mean values were above the mean cut-off point of 2.50. The grand mean of 2.87 shown in Table 2 indicates that Governing Councils have perceived positive influence on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. Results on Table 2 further showed that the standard deviation of the items ranged from 0.61 to 0.98, indicating that the responses of the respondents were not too far from the mean and from the opinion of one another on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

Research Question 3

What is the perceived influence of Governing Councils on funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the Perceived Influence of Governing Councils on the Funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Facilitates research grants for conducting research on the Colleges of Education.	384	2.75	0.79	Agree
2	Enhance investment into new teaching facilities.	384	3.06	0.88	Agree
3	Lobby for financial support from private sectors.	384	2.84	0.76	Agree
4	Solicits financial support from spirited individuals.	384	2.62	0.66	Agree
5	Facilitate internally generated revenue (IGR) of the Colleges of Education with a view to support the Colleges.	384	2.84	0.86	Agree
6	Create avenue for funding.	384	2.51	0.53	Agree
7	Builds relationships to facilitate funding.	384	2.92	0.73	Agree
8	Ensure sustainability of relationships with Donor agencies.	384	2.68	0.72	Agree
Grand Mean			2.78		Agree

Mean Score < than 2.50 = Disagree, Mean Score >or = 2.50 = Agree

The results presented in Table 3 revealed that all the 8 items on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria had their mean values ranged from 2.51 to 3.06, indicating that their mean values were above the mean cut-off point of 2.50. The grand mean of 2.78 shown in Table 3 indicates that Governing Councils have perceived positive influence on the funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. The Table further showed that the standard deviation of the items ranged from 0.53 to 0.88, indicating that the responses of the respondents were not too far from the mean and from the opinion of one another on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

Research Hypothesis 1

Governing Councils have no significant influence on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education North-Central, Nigeria.

Table 4: Chi-square goodness of fit on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

	Observed N	Expected N	df	Chi-square	Asymp.sig	Sig. value
SD	91	96.0	3	53.792	0.000	0.05
D	43	96.0				
A	107	96.0				
SA	143	96.0				
Total	384					

df= degree of freedom

The data presented on Table 4 shows that the Asymp.Sig value of 0.000 is less than the set significant value of 0.05 and this shows that the test of hypothesis is significant. This implies that Governing councils have significant influence on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

Research Hypothesis 2

Governing Councils have no significant influence on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

Table 5: Chi-square goodness of fit on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

	Observed N	Expected N	df	Chi-square	Asymp.sig	Sig. value
SD	93	96.0	3	43.708	0.001	0.05
D	91	96.0				
A	99	96.0				
SA	101	96.0				
Total	384					

df= degree of freedom

The data presented on Table 5 shows that the Asymp. Sig value of 0.001 is less than the set significant value of 0.05 and this shows that the test of hypothesis is significant. This implies that Governing councils have significant influence on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

Research Hypothesis 3

Governing Councils have no significant influence on funding of Federal Colleges of Education North-Central, Nigeria

Table 6: Chi-square goodness of fit on the perceived influence of Governing Councils on the funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria

	Observed N	Expected N	df	Chi-square	Asymp.sig	Sig. value
SD	36	96.0	3	73.083	0.000	0.05
D	78	96.0				
A	130	96.0				
SA	140	96.0				
Total	384					

df= degree of freedom

The data presented on Table 6 shows that the Asymp. Sig value of 0.000 is less than the set significant value of 0.05 and this shows that the test of hypothesis is significant. This implies that Governing councils have significant influence on funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The finding of the study revealed that Governing Councils have positive significant influence on the appointment of provosts in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. The findings showed that governing councils; make recommendation of candidates for appointment of provost; Take over the responsibility of appointing substantive provost; Play major advisory roles in the appointment of the provost; Draw up guidelines for the appoint of provosts; Recommend the reappointment of the provost for another tenure. The findings of this study agree with that of Mulder (2017) who stated that in appointing a Provost, the Governing Council of the College is required by law to interview and recommend three candidates for the consideration of the visitor and subsequent ratification by the President in council.

The finding of the study revealed that Governing Councils have positive significant influence on the provision of infrastructural facilities in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. The findings showed that governing council; Ensure overall provision of infrastructural facilities; Makes provision of mechanism for delivering short term infrastructural goals; Ensure timely intervention to salvage the decay in infrastructural facilities in the Colleges of Education; Approves the list of funds for purchases of furniture items; Approves the list of funds for the purchase of office equipment; Ensure procession of assistance in terms of grants to enable delivery of key infrastructures to Colleges of Education. The findings agree with that of Abdul (2013) who asserted that Colleges of Education Governing Councils should look inwards to generate internally the needed income (IGR) in order to increase their revenue base so as to be able to put in place the needed facilities.

The finding of the study revealed that Governing Councils have positive significant influence on the funding of Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria. The findings showed that governing council; Facilitates research grants for conducting research on the Colleges of Education; Enhance investment into new teaching facilities; Lobby for financial support from private sectors; Facilitate internally generated revenue (IGR) of the Colleges of Education with a view to support the Colleges; Builds relationships to facilitate funding. The findings agree with that of Abdulkareem (2011) who asserted that Governing Council lobby the relevant Educational Agencies or other bodies and statutory organizations in accordance with the law to seek for financial assistance or grants.

Conclusion

The study concluded that Governing Councils plays prominent roles in the appointment of provosts, provision of infrastructural facilities, funding, staff recruitment, development and discipline in Federal Colleges of Education in North-Central, Nigeria.

Recommendations

In view of the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. Governing Councils should engage in strategic, long-term infrastructure planning to address the current and future needs of the colleges. This involves conducting thorough assessments of existing facilities, identifying areas that require improvement, and developing a comprehensive plan to meet the infrastructural demands of the institution over time.
2. Governing Councils should prioritize financial transparency and accountability in their decision-making processes. This involves providing clear and detailed financial reports to all stakeholders, including students, staff, and the general public.

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