

## Top Ten Points on Higher Education Leadership

- 1) Without being pretentious, don't be afraid to assume the appearance of a leader; don't apologize for being a leader, and don't be reluctant to show courage in taking controversial positions.
- 2) Don't be fearful of making someone or many angry with you for a difficult decision.
- 3) Whenever possible, give clear reasons for your decisions, especially when you publicly disagree with advisors or a committee you have appointed.
- 4) Think relationally, not assuming that you are the first or only one doing something, but looking around to see who might also be doing it, or with whom you might do it.
- 5) Be generous in saying "thank you" and appreciating what people do; before criticizing anyone, acknowledge the good in what he/she has done or is doing.
- 6) Keep a sense of humor.
- 7) Communicate, communicate, communicate.
- 8) Surround yourself with strong people willing to be honest with you, as well as loyal once a decision has been made.
- 9) Be a "servant leader" viewing leadership not as wielding power over others but using power to serve others by accomplishing goals and building that elusive reality of a community.
- 10) Be both a good listener & a person with a clear vision & clear goals which are consistently & effectively expressed & lived – and adjusted when necessary.

*\*In reverse order of importance*

The Past As Prologue: The Future As Promise  
Charles Currie, SJ  
2011