

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TRANSITIONS

AY09/10 Academic Administration for UAS consists of four Schools with three Deans where the Dean of Professional Studies heads the Schools of Education and Management. This was a change described in the Self-Study Report. Prior to AY08-09, the shared Dean headed the Schools of Management and Career Education. In the recent change, Career Education for the first time had a full Dean with regional responsibilities to nurture and expand the career and vocational programs across the region. With Dean Schmitt's resignation in August this year, an Interim Associate Dean for Career Education was hired to fulfill that role during this time of academic transition.

At the August 2009 Convocation, Provost Stell conducted an open forum with the full Faculty Assembly to solicit input on academic organizational structures, as well as receive feedback on the positive and negatives of the options of changing the status quo. The notes from convocation and a follow-up open forum with faculty and staff held on September 1st about possible structures are contained in the Exhibit Room, Standard Six. The Provost presented three potential dean/associate dean models to the Faculty Senate at their October 2 meeting. Following the discussion on the potential attributes of the three models, the Chancellor informed the Senate that he had a strong preference for a Dean of Education and cited the many aspects of potential for growth and the critical need for teachers as a defining strategic opportunity for UAS. He stressed that UAS' opportunities for near term student and graduate growth are in teacher/administrator preparation programs.

As indicated by the Provost to the Faculty Senate, she will begin to put the three dean/two associate dean model into place beginning with the decision to have a Dean of Education, a Dean of Arts and Sciences (currently in a national search process), and a Dean of Professional and Technical Studies that will bring Career Education and Management together under one Dean.

Dr. Harris, Dean of Professional Studies announced his retirement effective June 2010. With his pending departure, UAS will soon be implementing a national search for a Dean of the School of Education. Prior to the holiday break this November, the Provost has also committed to defining the third dean position for the Schools of Management and Career Education. Yet to be determined are the roles and responsibilities for the two Associate Deans which may have slight variations appropriate to each School's programmatic mix. Once the Deans positions are advanced, the Associate Deans will be under discussion along with clarifying the next level of academic management such as faculty chairs, coordinators, etc. Faculty academic administration workload assignments vary considerably between the four schools. Detailed workload information must be collected and carefully synthesized in order to align functions with the appropriate level of responsibility. UAS has little experience with Associate Dean positions, so this part of the transitional work will require considerable discussion between faculty and academic administration this semester.

UAS is fortunate to have current administrators available for much of the transition period. UAS also has excellent and committed faculty in each program area who will assure program integrity and continuity as these new administrators are brought on board. Students will remain the focus with strong program advising, degree sequences that meet students needs, and instruction and research that demonstrates a high level of quality in UAS programs.