

The changing role of the university department chair

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Research indicates the role of the academic department chair is changing according to the exponential alterations of academia as a whole. This administration position was once seen as one of national stature and institutional visibility. The evolution of the university setting continues to alter the dynamics of administrator within a higher educational setting. Primary attention is given to business administration, personnel management, team building, problem solving skills, and good communications skills. This presentation will focus on the changing dynamics related to the contemporary position of department chair and how new and potential chairs can navigate this changing climate. Attention will also be given to the need for quantitative and qualitative research designed to address the department chair's work with faculty, students, and administrators while at the same time maintaining personal well-being, getting professional development, and finding time for research interests.

Key words: leadership, department chair, administration, academia, communication.