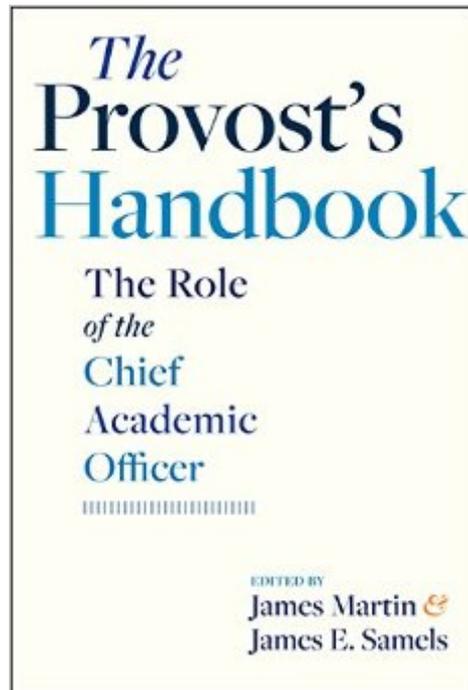


The book was found

# The Provost's Handbook: The Role Of The Chief Academic Officer



## Synopsis

As the chief academic officer, the provost plays the central role in the contemporary university or college. He or she leads the faculty and serves as their key representative to the administration while simultaneously acting as the administration's spokesperson to the academic faculty. How has this essential leadership position evolved over the past few decades, and what are the best practices to adopt for succeeding in specific operational areas? In seventeen essays written by some of the most successful chief academic officers in the United States, *The Provost's Handbook* outlines key topics related to the changing environment of higher education while explaining what constitutes effective leadership at the college and university level. How, for example, does the provost lead in a time of disruption and shifting needs? What skills should he or she nurture in new faculty? What role should data and institutional research play in decision making? How can a provost navigate the often stormy situations of shared governance? These questions—and many more challenges presented by this role—are addressed in this essential volume. Assembled by James Martin and James E. Samels, accomplished authors and scholars of leadership in higher education, *The Provost's Handbook* is destined to become the go-to resource for deans, presidents, trustees, and chief academic officers everywhere.

## Book Information

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; 1 edition (March 4, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1421416263

ISBN-13: 978-1421416267

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #592,313 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Administration](#) #922 in [Books > Textbooks > Education > Administration](#) #1529 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Administration](#)

## Customer Reviews

In most North American Universities, the office of Provost is so established that a handbook devoted to describing its role might seem superfluous. However, at a time when many British Universities

have recently introduced, or are considering introducing the office, it is timely to be reminded that the role of the Provost in America is in flux. In pre-Reformation Britain, Provosts were commonly the chief subordinate of an Abbot, having responsibility for all those matters of a monastery's function outside the Dean's priestly jurisdiction. In the UK, a shadow of this tradition lingers in the title of the Head of colleges such as Worcester and the Queen's in Oxford, Kings in Cambridge, and University College London. In most major universities in the USA, the office of Provost in its current form is not as ancient as all that. With few exceptions, such as U Penn and Columbia, Provosts were only introduced in the middle of the 20th Century, and at Harvard the post has only been continuous since the mid-1990s. Even within the USA, the position of the Provost in the organization varies, but typically they are described as the Chief Academic Officer, and have management responsibility for the academic Deans who head the, typically, nine to twelve Schools or Faculties. Separately reporting to the President, most Universities have Vice-Presidents responsible for areas such as Finance, Estates, Development, Governance, and so on, sometimes arranged under a single Executive V-P. There are numerous variations on this structure, particularly concerning the whether offices for institutional analysis, planning, budgeting and staff development fall within the jurisdiction of the office of the Provost, the Executive vice-President or the President themselves. For readers unfamiliar with North American University administration, the Provost's Handbook's silence on this background might make it a little inaccessible at first, though Chapter 4 by R Michael Tanner, who was Provost at U Illinois, Chicago, entitled 'The Scope of Academic Leadership at the Top' touches on the main features of the role. Each chapter is an essay by one or more former Provost, President or other University Leader, that bring a colourful range of perspectives to bear on the challenges faced by Provosts today. The chapters are grouped into two sections; the former looking thematically at sources of pressure and opportunities for change, and the latter at how to build productive relations with key players, such as the administrative VPs. Inevitably, as a multi-author work, the quality of evidence, analysis and explanation is very variable, but there are many nuggets of information and advice that any aspiring University leader would find invaluable. Readers looking for tables of institutional data, formal analysis of organization structures, worked examples of different approaches to budgeting or examples of dashboards and balanced scorecards to monitor delivery of strategy will be disappointed. Their absence from a work described as a 'Handbook' does seem a surprising omission, and will limit its utility for budding provosts. However, as a more informal vade mecum, it provides plenty of useful hints. Repeating themes are the increasing complexity of University organizations, the danger of administrative bloat and faculty disengagement, the

challenge of diversifying income and restraining costs, and the heightened awareness of the requirements of fee-paying students. Particularly useful advice is to be found in the Chapter on *How to lead the Faculty as a first among equals*, by Linda McMillin, a successful Provost who has returned to mainstream teaching and research. She eloquently makes the case that building mutual trust, understanding and respect between academics, Deans and the Provost is an essential, effortful and daily task, and gives many useful illustrations of successful models. John D Simon, Provost and Professor Chemistry at U Virginia, writes a thoughtful chapter on *Strategic planning and the Office of Institutional Research*, which again highlights the need for consensus-building and a stepwise approach to achieving strategic change. When captaining your Faculty flotilla through the uncharted seas of learning, to have no agreed plan is to guarantee chaos and dissipation; but to stick rigidly to one compass bearing irrespective of the urgent calls from the crew is to risk loss of the whole convoy on the shores of an undiscovered continent.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Provost's Handbook: The Role of the Chief Academic Officer  
The Chief Petty Officer's Guide (Blue and Gold Professional Series)  
The Chief Financial Officer: What CFOs Do, the Influence they Have, and Why it Matters (Economist Books)  
Chief Culture Officer: How to Create a Living, Breathing Corporation  
Chief Customer Officer 2.0: How to Build Your Customer-Driven Growth Engine  
Master The Officer Candidate Tests: Targeted Test Prep to Jump-Start Your Career (Peterson's Master the Officer Candidate Tests)  
Corrections Officer Exam (Corrections Officer Exam (Learning Express))  
Becoming an Officer of Marines: The Definitive Guide to Marine Corps Officer Candidate School  
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Exam Secrets Study Guide: Praxis Test Review for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests  
Marketing and Outreach for the Academic Library: New Approaches and Initiatives (Creating the 21st-Century Academic Library)  
Commentary for Academic Writing for Graduate Students, 3rd Ed.: Essential Tasks and Skills (Michigan Series in English for Academic & Professional Purposes)  
"I Am a Man": Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice  
Still Life: Chief Inspector Gamache, Book 1  
Jacksonland: President Andrew Jackson, Cherokee Chief John Ross, and a Great American Land Grab  
Hail to the Chief (Ellis the Elephant)  
Thunder Rolling Down the Mountain: The Story of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce (American Graphic)  
The Peace Chief (Robert J. Conley's Real People Series)  
Disinformation: Former Spy Chief Reveals Secret Strategies for Undermining Freedom, Attacking Religion, and Promoting Terrorism  
The Chief Complaint Landscapes for the People: George Alexander Grant, First Chief Photographer of the National Park Service (A Friends Fund

Publication)

[Dmca](#)