

Chairs Update October 2017

Message from Chair Fellow

What should I write about this month?

As Chair Fellow, this is one of the decisions I make each month: what news or information should I share? What tone should I take: Humorous? Sentimental? Contemplative?

As Chairs, your list of decisions is much longer...much longer. In their article on the special challenges facing academic leaders, Rowley and Sherman (2003) acknowledge Chairs' decisions are complicated by the numerous stakeholders you balance: Deans, faculty, students, alumnae, community, etc. Nearly 80% of daily administrative decisions in higher education are made at the department level (Gmelch, 1993); often the tyranny of the urgent, a phrase coined by Charles Hummell, guides our attention and time. Hummell argues that a regular tension exists between things that are urgent and things that are important – and often the urgent wins. While some moments bring the urgent and important into harmony, collisions between pressing issues and significant moments seem more likely. Recognizing and balancing this dichotomy is at the heart of Chair life.

On September 25th, Jeff Youngquist, Chairperson of Communication and Journalism, facilitated our first Chair Forum event. The discussion will focused on decision-making strategies designed to streamline and prioritize the daily demands Chairs manage. Jeff drew from his recently published article in the "Department Chair" journal while sharing his personal experiences chairing a multi-program department.

Chair Events and Resources

1. [Chair Forums](#). 12:00-1:30 p.m. (lunch included). These informal discussions include lunch and reflect on themes started in our Chairs Retreat. Dates include:
 - Friday, October 27 – Student Success: Retention
 - Monday, November 20 – Success: Mentoring Strategies (facilitated by Drs. Jo Reger and Karen Markel)

Register at the [Chairs' Corner Website](#).

2. As [Chair Fellow](#), I am always open and available to discuss, listen, and connect with department Chairs across the university. If you would like to schedule a moment to chat (or just say, "Hello"), I can be reached at heisler@oakland.edu.
3. [Resources](#). Information, research, and support for departmental academic leaders.
 - [Chairs' Corner](#) contains previous messages and lists of countless resources for a Chair's internal and external work for the university.
 - [Chairs' Resource Guide](#). Resources shared at the Chairs' Retreat are available as well as news and best practices from other universities on topics such as mentoring, retention, and hiring.

Faculty Events

1. [CETL website](https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/) (<https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/>)
2. [Faculty Handbook](http://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/cetl/files-and-documents/Handbooks/2017-18FacHandbookAug10.pdf) (<http://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/cetl/files-and-documents/Handbooks/2017-18FacHandbookAug10.pdf>)
3. [October Schedule of Events and Programs](https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/) (<https://www.oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops/>)

Respectfully,

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