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Academic Chairpersons Conference
Proceedings

37th Academic Chairpersons Conference,
Savannah, GA

Alternative Chairing; Academic Chair Conference Presentations from the Fringe

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Recommended Citation

Pyle S, Youngquist J, Line D. Alternative Chairing; Academic Chair Conference Presentations from the Fringe. Academic Chairperson's Conference, February 2020

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1. **Title of presentation:**

Alternative Chairing; Academic Chair Conference Presentations from the Fringe

2. **Primary presenter information and curriculum vitae or short biographical sketch:**

Stephen Pyle, Associate Professor and Interim Dean at Johnson & Wales University-Denver, College of Hospitality Management, Stephen.Pyle@jwu.edu. A 20-year Chair veteran, Professor Pyle has managed all aspects of curriculum delivery and directed programs in Hospitality Management, Sports/Entertainment/Event Management and Business Administration including MBA programs. Professor Pyle, a long-time ACC participant has presented on the Chairs role in the development of experiential education in the classroom and the blending of traditional & on-line faculty assessment to enhance classroom delivery.

Jeffery Youngquist, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Department of Communication & Journalism, Oakland University, youngqui@oakland.edu. Dr. Youngquist's recent research and writing have focused on the challenges academic chairs face in leadership and decision making. More broadly, his work also focuses on the impact of conventions of conversation on perceptions of power, dominance and gender. Dr. Youngquist has been a chair for three years.

David Line, Assistant Professor and Director of Eastern Washington University's Masters of Public Health Program, dline@ewu.edu. Dr. Line is a Quality Matters course reviewer, has been involved in several program accreditation efforts as a subject matter expert, and helped develop online and on-campus programs. Previously he has done research on and written about the academic chair and competencies, evaluation, critical thought and creativity as well as the role of the academic chair in Title IX compliance.

Additional presenters: None

3. **Presentation theme:** Leadership and Management

4. **Type of presentation:** Interactive Workshop

5. **Abstract:** Expectations of Department Chairs focus on managerial functions often at the expense of creativity. However, leadership expectations often require creative responses. This workshop explores the benefits of (and resistance to) creative chairing, and invites the audience to help generate and explore new and creative approaches to being an academic chair.

6. **Keywords:** Chair, Creative, Unique, Alternative, ACC-History, Revitalize

7. **Target audience:** New and Experienced Chairs
8. **Creative Commons License:** Attribution
9. **Objectives:**
 1. To spark interest in and define unique, creative, and alternative approaches to chairing based on presentations given over the past 36 years of the Academic Chairperson's Conference.
 2. To explore and convey the value of unique, creative, and alternative approaches to chairing for the Department Chair.
 3. To identify possible roadblocks that have prevented creativity in the role of Chair while encouraging audience members to explore and generate new approaches to chairing that are creative, unique and inventive.
10. **Description of the session (300-500 words):**

Over its 36-year history, the Academic Chairs Conference (ACC) has provided a wealth of information regarding the leadership, managerial operations and interactions of the Chair's role within academia. Presented in a variety of formats, this information typically focuses on the day-to-day activity, responsibility and effectiveness of the Chair position. With over 1800 presentations, the ACC has done much to professionalize the role of Chair within higher education.

Since the first conference, the ACC has accepted presentations that address non-traditional, creative and unique approaches to the role of the academic chair. With titles like, "Poetry and the Department Chair", "Moral Leadership and the Department Chair" and "Prolonged Chair Sitting, Detrimental to Workplace Health", these presentations focus on alternative ways to look at the position. They address a unique blend of spiritual, humorous, creative and work-life balance topics that holistically support this often difficult and complex position. By accepting these presentations over the years, the ACC has given participants the opportunity to view the role of the Academic Chair in a new light.

This interactive and engaging presentation examines the importance and methods of being creative and unique in the role of a Department Chair. The authors explore previous presentations to uncover patterns and unique angles. After examining the history of these presentations at the ACC, we will have an open discussion on the value of chairs embracing a unique, creative and alternative approach to their positions. The workshop will encourage participants to share their own creative and unique methods of working within the demands of the chair position. In this conversation, participants will

be asked to describe not just their experience with unique and creative approaches to chairing the department, but also any practical difficulties they encounter while attempting these approaches. In the final portion of the workshop, we will encourage future presenters to imbed/develop their unique and creative efforts as part of future conference submissions.

The ACC is about educating its participants, especially those new to their position, in the increasingly complex role of the Academic Chair. Too often, in the management of their daily work lives, Chairs overlook some of the more creative and unique aspects that enrich this position. Ideally, participants will leave this workshop with a renewed sense of excitement and enthusiasm that will benefit not just themselves, but their departments and academic institutions as they serve in the role of Academic Chair.