Establishing and Maintaining a Personal Leadership Network

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Recommended Citation

Working Title: Establishing and Maintaining a Personal Leadership Network

Presentation Theme: Becoming an Effective Servant Leader

Presentation Type: Best Practice Presentation (50 minutes)

Abstract:
In this session, two academic leaders will share lessons learned during their first years leading a department. This session will include advice related to establishing and maintaining a personal leadership network.

Keywords: Five (5) keywords about your presentation. These are used to help participants search for sessions in the conference proceedings.

Departmental leadership, Servant Leadership, Leadership Network, Time management

Overview:
The multifaceted components of the academic chair position can, at times, be a challenging labyrinth to navigate. There is a growing body of research on the professional development of academic leaders and several key findings are beginning to emerge. Researchers are confirming what would seem to be intuitive: Academic leadership professional development needs are not uniform; one size does not fit all. Moreover, leaders' preferences for professional development appear to be related to the specific responsibilities of their portfolio. In this interactive session, two academic leaders will share their successes, failures and lessons learned from establishing, curating, and maintaining a personal leadership network. This session will include advice related to first-hand, real-life experiences (both positive and negative) that an academic chairperson experiences. Special emphasis will be placed on how to manage the personal leadership network.

Relevance of session to chairpersons:
Given the purpose of the conference, along with the related themes (Emerging Trends in Higher Education; Becoming an Effective Servant Leader), this session is relevant to all academic chairpersons. Newly-appointed chairs will benefit as it will give them advice related to their position. Experienced chairs will also find value in this session both personally and in how they mentor new chairpersons.

Presentation focus:
This presentation will focus on first-hand, real-life experiences (both positive and negative) that an academic chairperson experiences. Through these experiences, participants will be able to better identify their own strengths and weaknesses as leaders and devise future plans for enhancing their strengths and mitigating their weaknesses.

Recommendations for chairpersons:
Overall, the purpose of this session is twofold: (1) to provide academic leaders with advice and strategies for establishing and maintaining a personal leadership network and (2) to allow

participants to work with each other to share experiences and prominent lesson learned during the session.

How the audience will be involved:
Session participants will be actively engaged throughout the presentation, both with each other and with the presenters. Although there will be formal information presented, the overall structure will encourage an ongoing dialog within the presentation. In addition, participants will be asked to work with each other to share their experiences and prominent takeaways from the presentation.