

Role of Chairs from a Dean's Perspective

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How many of you...

knew your dean before becoming chair?

met 1-on-1 while “just” a faculty member?

have a dean who is also (relatively) new?

have a dean who is new to your institution?

have a dean who is not in computing?

are in a school/college/division of “computing”?

are not chair of the “top” department?

are chair of the “problem” department?

control your own budget and staff?

What is the role of the dean?

academic, financial, and facilities officer	40%
administrator of the deanery	10%
arbiter of tradeoffs, disputes, complaints	20%
interface to central administration	25%
ambassador to other academic units	15%
other institutions	5%
general public	2%
fund raiser	50%
faculty member	3%

What annoys a dean

working at cross purposes

problems that surface “too soon”

problems that surface “too late”

complaints without proposed solutions

threats and intransigence

being “worked around”

What makes a dean happy

creativity

positivity

decisiveness

clear vision

partnership

responsiveness

What is the role of the chair?

advocate for your department

represent viewpoints fairly

build strong, trusted relationship with your dean

build partnerships with other chairs

enjoy your time as chair and use it wisely

build a succession plan and process *now*

