



California
State
University,
Fresno

CHAIRS' SCHOOL

Chair's Success is Faculty Success
Faculty Success is Student Success

You are invited to participate in the first annual Chairs' School offered by the Office of Faculty Affairs at Fresno State.

Being a chair can be a challenging exercise in leadership. As a middle manager, you have the responsibility for the department but not always the authority to act, which is a sometimes thankless and sometimes awkward position. As chair, you experience the vagaries of the order of assignment, the difficulties of student complaints, the trauma of faculty conflicts, the vicissitudes of budget, and possibly a lack of training. While we cannot make the vagaries, the difficulties, the trauma, and the vicissitudes disappear, we can help you to develop the skills and knowledge to handle various aspects of your role as chair more effectively.

The Office of Faculty Affairs is offering the opportunity for you to join with other chairs each month to explore a variety of topics designed to aid in your success as chair. On one Wednesday afternoon each month of the academic year, experts will provide you with detailed information on the topic of the month followed by your own application of the information to problems that chairs face every day. For example, we will explore the situation in which a student comes to complain to you about a faculty member in your department, maybe about a grade or an improper comment or a hostile classroom. What do you do with that information? Do you talk to the faculty member? Do you write it up for the file? Do you tell the dean? What do you tell the student? Can you just ignore it? Based upon a few selected readings or videos you are asked to enjoy in advance of the session and a presentation of information to prepare the foundation, you will analyze a problem or two and decide how you will approach it in conversation with your chair colleagues.

The following pages set out the schedule and the topics for each month. A sample outline of the first session is also included. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marsha Baum at baum@csufresno.edu to apply. Ten to twelve slots will be available for this 2020 Chairs' School.

Chairs' School Application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JWyZHJefQSJuKp3YCPqg9GVxk2S8XBuolK_aEq2LmwU/edit

Session Dates:

1. Thursday, November 19, 2020
2. Thursday, December 17, 2020
3. Wednesday, January 27, 2021
4. Wednesday, February 24, 2021 Projected Lecturer Appreciation Day
5. Wednesday, March 24, 2021
6. Wednesday, April 28, 2021
7. Tuesday, May 4, 2021
8. Wednesday, June 23, 2021 Voluntary

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Sincerely,

Marsha Baum, Associate Vice President, Faculty Affairs