



## CONFRONTING CHALLENGES IN ACADEMIC UNITS CONSORTIUM

When academic units face challenges of internal conduct and governance, it can undermine their abilities to fulfill their missions of teaching, research, and service. Assessing and assisting these units to return to vibrancy and vigor can be complex. We have founded the Confronting Challenges in Academic Units Consortium to assist institutional stewards to those ends. The Consortium creates, curates, and houses resources in a central repository accessible to members, organizes regular conferences for member institutions, and pursues selected small research projects to support these stewards in assisting challenged units.

The Consortium does not provide interventions or assistance with individual situations faced by member institutions except by individuals acting in their own capacities, and not through the Consortium. Rather, it provides supporting resources and brings institutional stewards together. The Consortium is headed by an Executive Committee of high-level academic leaders with extensive experience in restoring challenged academic units to vibrancy.

The Executive Committee of the Confronting Challenges in Academic Units Conference invites applications from institutions that have identified challenged units, those that wish to focus on prevention, and those recognizing the importance of early identification in minimizing damaging effects from these issues. Institutional members have access to resources and opportunities for networking and solution development.

Resources will be updated on a rolling basis to reflect emerging good practice and accumulated collective wisdom. The collection contains case studies (exposition, explanations, outcomes), tools, and assessment assistance for those working with such units on particular issues. Representatives could include such institutional stewards as Provosts, Deans, Department Heads, and other academic leaders. Each institution would designate one representative to participate in consortium governance.

“ GETTING THE UNIT BACK ON TRACK COST THE UNIVERSITY AN ESTIMATED \$2M OVER SEVERAL YEARS.

“ THERE ARE DIVERSE PROBLEMS AND DIVERSE SOLUTIONS - AND SIMILARITIES IN HOW THEY CAN BE APPROACHED.

The Consortium is not-for-profit, and housed at the University of Illinois National Center for Professional and Research Ethics (NCPRE). NCPRE, a unit within the Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL), as one of its initiatives, develops resources supporting career and leadership development, focusing on academic institutions. The dues of the member institutions comprise consortium funding for continued development of resources and hosting conferences. Member institutions benefit from free attendance at the Consortium's conferences as well as access to custom-developed Consortium resources. Conferences





are by application only. They are confidential, with the goal of supporting participants in networking and formulating effective strategies for addressing challenges faced by constituent units.

“ WE NEEDED THE LANGUAGE  
TO DISCUSS AND ADDRESS  
THESE CHALLENGES.

Founding member institutions, the first to join, pay dues of \$7,500 per year for an initial term of three years, followed by annual renewal. After the founding period ends, member institutions pay \$10,000 per year for membership for an initial term of two years, and then can renew annually thereafter. Member institutions with representatives serving on the

Executive Committee pay founding member fees while their representative is serving on the Executive Committee.

Please contact NCPRE's Assistant Director, Sylvie Khan ([smtkhan@illinois.edu](mailto:smtkhan@illinois.edu)) for further information.

Executive Committee of the Confronting Challenges in Academic Units Conference:

**Ruth Watkins**, *Chair*, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Utah

**Steven Leigh**, Professor of Anthropology and former Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Colorado

**Sarah Mangelsdorf**, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Barbara McFadden**, Principal, McFadden, Rocklin, And Associates

**Sonya Stephens**, President, Mount Holyoke College

**Richard Wheeler**, Dean Emeritus, University of Illinois

