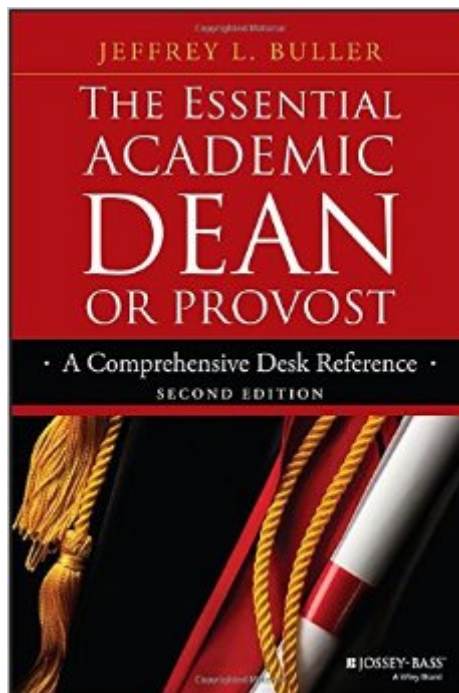


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The Essential Academic Dean Or Provost: A Comprehensive Desk Reference (Jossey-Bass Resources For Department Chairs)



Synopsis

The go-to reference for academic leaders seeking practical answers to everyday challenges The Essential Academic Dean or Provost explains the "how" of academic leadership, providing a practical, comprehensive, reality-based reference for almost any problem, challenge, or opportunity. This updated second edition includes new chapters on the difference between leadership and management in higher education, leadership in politically charged environments, effective strategies for making decisions, and working with associate deans or provosts, plus new case studies, new research, and ten additional chapters available on the companion website. Each topic deals concisely with the most important information deans and provosts need when faced with a particular situation, providing both a comprehensive guide to academic leadership as well as a ready reference to be consulted as needed. The role of a dean or provost at a modern university is extremely complex, involving budgeting, community relations, personnel decisions, management of a large enterprise, fundraising, and guiding a school, college, or entire institution toward a compelling vision of the future. The details academic leaders have to deal with are numerous and critical, and every little thing matters. This invaluable guide provides the answers you need when you need them, and gives you framework for successfully navigating your job's many competing demands. Build support for a shared vision of the future Interact effectively with different internal and external constituencies Learn decision-making techniques specific to the academic environment Set, supervise, and implement a budget that allows your programs to flourish Academic leaders need a handy, focused reference that provides authoritative answers to the many issues and questions that arise every day. With proven solutions to a multitude of challenges, The Essential Academic Dean or Provost shows academic leaders what they need to know in order to successfully guide their institutions into the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With any reference source the first criteria I look at are, 1) does the author(s) know their stuff, and 2) is the book readable. The first criteria deals with issues of authority and research, and to a small degree whether the author(s) can explain clearly what they know. The second criteria, for me, has more to do with explanations and a great deal to do with whether the writing is dry, cumbersome, and bland, versus entertaining and quickly absorbable. [There is, of course, a spectrum involved and authors can fall anywhere on those respective scales.] There is too the case of organization -- which I think falls under both criteria. As far as 'Authority' -- I thought there was no doubt that the author knew his stuff. I don't ask you to trust my opinion. Look elsewhere for confirmation. As for organization -- there are sections on Leadership, budgets, and the college eco-system. By far most of the material is about Leadership, its definition and how the Dean/Provost fits into the college system. As he puts it, the Dean/Provost leads from the middle. There were many sections about Leadership and it wasn't immediately clear to me what was covered under each section. But once you read the first paragraph it's entirely clear what is covered. (And perhaps it was just my problem and I was missing the obvious.)>>In higher education, the politics are particularly vicious because the stakes are so small.>>LOL. There are humorous bits like the above throughout the book. And I must say that this book was much more readable than I ever thought it would be. So it meets the highest standards for my two initial criteria. Recommend.

SUMMARY My main bugaboo with desk references is readability.

The vice principal who served as advisor of my high school debate team would have loved this book. Not because it is packed with information and effective guidance, but because this material is carefully organized for speedy access and clear comprehension. Her mantra, which likely is shared among the time-starved who perennially manage with a high degree of effectiveness, was that resources are only helpful if you can drill to their essence immediately. The book is arranged in seven clusters, ranging from the nature of academic leadership and the ecosystem of the college or university to the budget of the college/university and the opportunities and challenges of being an

academic leader. If you are new to a school and/or are taking on a new position, you likely will find it beneficial to read the first two sections of this book in their entirety. The information and scenarios covered in these first 195 pages provide both primer and checklists as you work to build your practice and develop new habits and ways of thinking. If you are new to administration, it would be ideal to read the book cover to cover, but you may need to tackle that over the course of a semester or longer so that you can give the sections your undivided attention. While beneficial when read in sequence, the other five sections and the subsections can be dipped into as needed. The title of each subsection gives a clear idea of its scope; and the headings within each subsection article reinforce important concepts. Each of these bite-size subsections provides information targeted at specific challenges and situations.

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