

## What I wish I knew! A reflection of a first-year chairperson

There is an endless list of articles, essays, and OpEds written with suggestions on how to prepare and survive the first year as an academic department chairperson. The authors of these well-intentioned writings often propose interestingly similar suggestions on how to endure/prepare/thrive in the position that is often called the most challenging leadership position in higher education. Bruce E. Davis said in his "Letter to a New Chair", "It may take a full year for you to really understand the job, which is much more than paper management."<sup>1</sup> As an academic that felt quite prepared to enter the role of department chairperson, it was made immediately clear that even with presumptive adequate preparation a faculty member can lack the depth of knowledge needed on specific tasks until they are entrusted with the leadership mantle.

This session will provide the "top 10" list of things I wish I knew coming into the position of chairman and tips on how to avoid some potential challenges. Based upon reflection and research, valuable tips will be offered on time management, positive faculty interactions, working with shared governance to achieve more, overcoming imposters syndrome, understanding inter-office politics, and dealing with the onslaught of email.

<sup>1</sup> Davis, Bruce E. (2012, May 13). *A letter to a New Chair*. Retrieved from <https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-Letter-to-a-New-Chair/131831>