Position Specification

The University of Texas at Dallas

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Private and Confidential
The University of Texas at Dallas invites applications and nominations for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost.

About The University of Texas at Dallas

The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), is a Carnegie R1 classification (Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity) institution, located in a suburban setting 20 miles north of downtown Dallas. The University enrolls 26,793 students in all—17,350 undergraduate and 9,443 graduate—and offers a broad array of bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs.

The University is known for its long-established and well-earned reputation for student and faculty excellence. The Fall 2016 freshman class includes 119 National Merit Scholars, bringing the total number of National Merit Scholars enrolled at the University to 390. Based on number of National Merit Scholars in the 2016 freshman class the University is ranked 17th in the nation; 8th among public universities. Since 1990, refereed papers published by the UTD faculty earn a Web of Science, InCites, Normalized Citation Index Score of 1.29 which places it among the upper echelon of research universities in the nation, ahead of many well regarded institutions such as Ohio State University, Texas A&M University-College Station, University of Florida, University of Miami and Tulane University. The stature of the University is reflected by its ranking in the Times Higher Education as the top U.S. University in the “Top 100 under 50” (years since founding). UT Dallas consistently ranks as a “Best Value” by Kiplinger and Princeton Review, and a number of its degree programs are highly ranked within their academic domains.

Established by the founders of Texas Instruments in 1969, The University of Texas at Dallas is a young institution that is driven by the entrepreneurial spirit of its founders who had an uncompromised commitment to academic excellence. This has led to the creation of a University with a high energy, nimble, innovative environment. It is an exciting place to join where you can contribute to the building of a model university for the 21st century. This is the fastest growing university in Texas and among one of the fastest growing in the nation. The size of the student body nearly tripled during the last two decades. In the last decade alone the enrollments have nearly doubled. This growth is even more impressive
when one considers the fact that the average freshman SAT score is 1261 and that the University has often had the highest SAT average among all public universities in Texas. Since 2005, 39 new academic programs have been introduced and more new academic offerings are under consideration. These new programs benefit more than the new students enrolled, but also provide a greater variety of faculty and courses that strengthen the interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial nature of the institution. During the last decade, over $1 billion was spent on construction to expand the campus to over 3.5 million square feet. Today 6300 students reside on campus, further enhancing the campus learning experience for students.

Degrees are granted by the University's eight academic schools:
The School of Arts and Humanities,
The School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication,
The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences,
The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences,
The Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science,
The School of Interdisciplinary Studies,
The Naveen Jindal School of Management,
The School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The largest schools in order are the Naveen Jindal School of Management, the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science and the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. These schools account for over 70% of all degrees granted by the University. Additionally the university has 61 centers and institutes driving innovative research as well as outreach to industry.

The majority of undergraduates at UT Dallas enter as freshmen. The University also welcomes high quality transfer students from other universities and from the outstanding community colleges in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The Fall 2016 freshman class, at 3,229 students, is distinguished by an average SAT score of 1261. The University enrolls 1,354 doctoral students, while the remaining 8,089 graduate students are pursuing Master's degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates, principally in the Naveen Jindal School of Management and the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. The international students make up twenty-six percent of the entire student population. The eight academic schools of UT Dallas collectively grant over 200 Ph.D. degrees a year. The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) was ranked as one of the 25 most ethnically diverse student populations in the country (US World News Report, 2013). The diversity on campus is celebrated and is an integral part of the University's success.

Along with enrollments, faculty numbers have also been growing rapidly. Currently there are a total of 1339 faculty members. Of these, 857 of them are full-time faculty. The number of tenure-stream faculty is expected to approach 600 by Fall 2017 semester. The faculty is comprised of nationally and internationally recognized senior faculty and highly productive junior faculty. In FY 2016 total research expenditures exceeded $106 million. Funded research is primarily driven by the Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the School of Brain and Behavioral Sciences. The Naveen Jindal Management School of Management faculty excel in
refereed publications in the leading journals; this year the School is ranked in the top 10 worldwide based on this criteria. UTD has a strong and active system of faculty governance, marked by a close and cooperative engagement between the Academic Senate, the President, and the Provost.

The location of the 600-acre UT Dallas campus, near the center of the dynamic growth of the Dallas Metroplex, is one of the University’s prime assets. Two major highways provide easy access from campus to the airports, and the partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit makes it easy to travel from campus to regional museums, theaters, and libraries without a car. A new high-speed rail line with dedicated stop at the campus is expected by 2022.

The University’s physical plant has been expanding rapidly to keep up with its increasing populations of students, staff, and faculty. Over the last six years, 7 new residence halls have been constructed to house nearly 3,000 students. Another 3,000 students live on campus in apartment-style housing. New academic buildings for the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication and for the Jindal School of Management were opened in 2013 and 2014 respectively. A 225,000 square foot laboratory research building for neuroscience, bioengineering, chemistry and biology was opened in the Spring 2016 semester, and the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences also opened an addition in 2016. The second student services building was brought into service earlier this year. Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center will open fall 2017. Currently a 200,000 square foot engineering building is under construction and another 200,000 square foot Math and Sciences building is funded and getting ready for construction. Concurrent with the construction of new buildings, the campus landscape is being transformed under the direction of the world-renowned landscape architect Peter Walker.

The financial foundation of university operations with an annual budget of $546 million consists primarily of a combination of tuition and fee payments by students and tax-payer support of instruction based on a state-wide formula linked to student semester credit hours, with a ratio of student payments to tax dollar support of approximately 2 to 1. Additional state support is linked to research productivity. The University is one of a handful of Texas Universities qualified based on criteria established by the Texas Legislature to share in the returns of a state endowment to support research universities.

UT Dallas recently successfully completed its first comprehensive fundraising campaign, with the University’s endowments growing to well over $450 million. The margin of excellence afforded by endowments and gifts from individual philanthropists, foundations, and corporations is of crucial importance to the pursuit of the University’s mission.

Strategic Plan

Since its inception, UT Dallas has intentionally designed an institutional structure that is different than traditional universities. Rather than offer all programs for all people, the University plans on building upon existing strengths and areas of greatest opportunity, remaining true to the institution’s roots and legacy while addressing the need for change and innovation to meet today’s and tomorrow’s challenges. The 2012 strategic plan sets forth a proactive set of bold actions that will secure UT Dallas’ place as one of the world’s great universities.
The strategic plan sets forth five principles for UT Dallas:

- A first-rank public research university with focused centers of excellence, prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing, technology-driven global society;
- A global force in innovative, transdisciplinary research and education in emerging areas of technology, science, and learning;
- A ground-breaking leader in both framing and answering the questions faced by business, policy makers, healthcare, and the public;
- A synergistic partner with local industry, government, and cultural organizations as well as local K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities; and
- One of the most creative, innovative universities in the nation and world.

In line with these principles, the plan outlines six strategic initiatives and eight administrative imperatives. The University has been successfully executing this plan. In fact many of the targets established in the plan have been significantly exceeded. Details about the plan can be found at: http://www.utdallas.edu/strategicplan/. A new strategic plan is currently being developed.

Founders Dream

Beginning in 1930, Cecil Green, Erik Jonsson, and Eugene McDermott grew the startup Geophysical Services Inc. into the innovative business now known as Texas Instruments. All three men were passionate about education. In 1961, they sought to address the significant shortage of engineers and scientists in North Texas by creating the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. Their vision was to create an institute of higher learning, where excellence is expected in the sciences, mathematics, engineering, and management. In 1969, they donated their institute and its 1,000-acre campus to The University of Texas System, creating UT Dallas.

Now, less than 50 years later, UT Dallas has achieved the founders’ dream of the national research university status by attaining Carnegie R1 classification (Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity). With an annual regional economic impact of $1.4 billion, the University has become critical to the economic vitality and competitiveness of the region and Texas. The University is well on its way to becoming one of the nation’s best public research universities and one of the great universities in the world. In the coming decades, University faculty will continue to scale up and establish leadership positions in an increasing number of academic disciplines. Simultaneously, University leadership aims to increase UT Dallas’ impact on the region and the nation by:

- Graduating more scientists, engineers, managers and other highly trained individuals;
- Generating more research discoveries that lead to innovative products, services, and jobs;
- Partnering with businesses to help them become more effective and efficient engines of growth;
- Expanding partnerships with area schools, civic organizations and local government agencies to share critically needed expertise in addressing community challenges; and
- Promoting North Texas as a leading high-tech region and a great place to live and work.

Role and Responsibilities
Reporting to the President, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost serves as the University’s Chief Academic Officer, with responsibility for all academic programs as well as the implementation of the academic priorities of the Strategic Plan. The Provost must be able to lead within a complex organization, have a broad intellectual orientation, an appreciation for future trends in education, and a passion for the mission of public higher education. A critical member of the President’s cabinet, the Provost works with the senior leadership team in the common effort to continuously enhance the productivity of the faculty and staff and to provide ever-greater opportunities for student growth and achievement.

Responsibilities:

- Partner with President Benson and his leadership team on the design and implementation of the University’s strategic and operational activities, with primary responsibility for providing positive and effective leadership for the University’s academic endeavors and shaping the academic culture at UTD;
- Serve as the Chief Academic Officer and lead the Council of Deans (comprised of the deans of the eight schools, the deans of the Honors College and McDermott Library, and the deans of Undergraduate Education and Graduate Studies);
- Provide strategic oversight for academic planning, resource allocation and innovation in all academic programs and with the college Deans, ensure excellence and relevance in the design of the curriculum and the quality of teaching and learning;
- Provide global perspective and strategic direction that enables the success of deans and academic unit heads to create and successfully manage operating budgets for successful operations;
- Provide strategic vision to further enhance the quality of the student experience and continue to increase the standards of excellence of UTD’s undergraduate and graduate students;
- Provide leadership through effective processes and programs that support the deans and faculty committees on faculty hiring, evaluation, and promotion and tenure;
- With a collaborative purpose, works closely in partnership with the Faculty Senate on issues of university governance;
- As an executive leader, provide an unwavering commitment to, and develop creative strategies for, enhancing the diversity of the faculty, staff and student body and creating a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for all members of the UTD community;
- In partnership with the Vice President for Research, promote the continuing development of the University’s robust research programs, and champion the highest academic standards in faculty appointments, research contributions, tenure and promotion;
- Serve as the central spokesperson for academic affairs within the University, The University of Texas System, and the larger community.

Qualities and Desirable Characteristics
The successful candidate will have demonstrated leadership excellence in complex, higher education settings; a reputation as a leading scholar/researcher with impeccable integrity, and credentials appropriate for appointment as a tenured Professor at UTD. Ideally, the Provost will have:
• Proven ability to inspire, collaborate and negotiate with the diverse and sometimes competing constituencies within the University to achieve the University’s mission and common goals.
• The breadth of knowledge and vision needed to identify existing, emerging and future fields for institutional investment.
• The skills to work with the faculty and administration across campus to champion research and innovation, and to develop faculty and programmatic excellence that will successfully attract external funding and compete for sponsored program opportunities nationally and globally.
• A commitment to continuously enhance the quality of student learning and student success at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.
• Demonstrated strategic leadership in planning, financial management of the academic enterprise, communication and organization as well as the vision, judgment and tact to set priorities, make difficult decisions, allocate financial, capital, and human resources, delegate appropriate authority, and resolve delicate personnel and personality conflicts.
• The dedication required to maintain an evolving campus environment that is open and inclusive, and to promote diversity in all aspects of University life.

Additional information about the position may be found on the website: http://www.utdallas.edu/.

Applications and nominations will be accepted until the new Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost is selected. Interested parties may submit their materials or nominations:

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