MAKING THE MOVE TO ADMINISTRATION

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MAKING THE MOVE TO ADMINISTRATION

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ABSTRACT
This panel explores the transitions of IS faculty members to administrative roles. Moving to such roles is not risk free and frequently means adapting to a new set of expectations and a work-life that is different from that of a faculty member. Experienced university administrators will share their motivations and experiences in making move to administration and will help attendees considering moving to administration about the pros and cons of administrative life.

Keywords
Administration, faculty roles, administrative roles, career transitions

INTRODUCTION
As Information Systems faculty members progress through their careers, some develop an interest in transitioning to administrative roles. This transition can have various forms including a temporary (interim) assignment, a quasi-administrative, non-line role (such as director of an academic center) or a more permanent move to an administrative career path.

Moving to an administrative role is not risk-free and the work-life and expectations of an administrator can be quite different from that of a faculty member. Moving to administration often means a different, less flexible calendar, new supervisory relationships with former colleagues, less time for intellectual pursuits, new decision-making rights and responsibilities, and almost inevitable conflict.

In this panel, experienced university administrators share their experiences with making the transition to administration. Through attending this panel, information systems faculty members who are interested in or considering moving to administration will hear firsthand accounts about the pitfalls and rewards of an administrator’s life. Panelists will share their thoughts on questions such as:

- How does life change when one becomes an administrator?
- How do you balance your duties as an administrator with your identity as a faculty member?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being in administration?
- How did you maintain relationships with your colleagues?

Structure of the Panel
The panel session will have the following structure:

- Introduction: The moderator will briefly introduce the panel and its purpose.
- Panelists’ statements: Each panelist will provide a three to five minute overview of their backgrounds, focusing on their administrative roles and why they made the transition to administration.
Discussion and Q&A: The moderator will ask “seed” questions, such as those noted above. Audience members will be encouraged to pose their own questions and share their experiences. We anticipate a highly interactive session with audience members as active participants.

Panelists

Panelists represent the gamut of administration, from program director to university president:

- **O. Max Burns** is President of Gordon College, a state, residential college in Barnsville, GA. Prior to assuming this role, Dr. Burns was Dean of the Contrell School of Business at North Georgia College & State University. He has also served as a member of the United States House of Representatives. Dr. Burns was on the faculty of Georgia State University for over 20 years. He is also a Fulbright Scholar.

- **Thomas Case** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Information Systems at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Case holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He has been on the faculty of Georgia Southern University for over 25 years. In that time, he has assumed a variety of administrative duties.

- **Mary Granger** is Professor of Management Science in the Department of Information Systems and Technology Management at George Washington University, where she has served as Director of both the undergraduate and graduate information systems programs. Dr. Granger is also a Fulbright award winner. She has consulted with several universities in developing countries to assist them in building their programs and administrative processes.

- **George Schell** is Professor of Management Information Systems at the Cameron School of Business, University of North Carolina Wilmington. He has served as a department chairman as well as associate dean at the Cameron School. These positions have spanned 11 of the 23 years he has been at UNCW. Dr. Schell has taught in China at Fudan University and at Shanghai International Studies University.

- **Craig Van Slyke** (moderator) is Dean of the W.A. Franke College of Business at Northern Arizona University. Prior to moving to NAU, he was a Professor of Information Technology Management at the Cook School of Business at Saint Louis University, where he also served as Associate Dean for Academic Programs. Before becoming Associate Dean, he served as Chair of the Decision Sciences and IT Management Department.

Outcomes

SAIS participants choosing to attend this panel session will acquire further insight into the rewards and challenges associated with serving as an administrator. They will observe both similarities and differences in the panelists’ motivations for transitioning from faculty member to administrator. They will also gain further insights into challenges and opportunities associated with different types and levels of administrative roles. Participants who are considering moving from faculty to administrative roles should come away with a better sense of whether such a transition is in their best interests.