

Duties of Department Chairs (or Equivalent Officers)*

The chair of a department of instruction and research is its leader and administrative head. Appointed by the Chancellor, the chair is responsible to the Chancellor through the Dean of the college or school.

As leader of the department, the chair has the following duties:

1. The appointee is in charge of planning the programs of the department in teaching, research, and other functions. The chair is expected to keep the curriculum of the department under review, and to maintain a climate that is hospitable to creativity, diversity, and innovation.
2. The appointee is responsible for the recruitment, selection, and evaluation of both the faculty and the staff personnel of the department. In consultation with colleagues, the chair recommends appointments, promotions, merit advances, and terminations. The appointee is responsible for maintaining a departmental affirmative action program for faculty and staff personnel, consistent with University affirmative action policies. The appointee is expected to make sure that faculty members are aware of the criteria prescribed for appointment and advancement, and to make appraisals and recommendations in accordance with the procedures and principles stated in the President's Instructions to Appointment and Promotion Committees.
3. The appointee should be receptive to questions, complaints, and suggestions from members of the department, both faculty and staff personnel, and from students, and should take appropriate action on them.

*On some campuses some or all of the duties which are performed by the chair of a department of instruction and research may be performed by other officers. The College Provosts at San Diego perform some but not all of the duties of department chairs. The administrative heads of special academic agencies for curricular innovation are to some extent like department chairs. It is because of such variations from the traditional pattern of academic organization that the phrase "department chairs (or equivalent officers)" occurs in this memorandum and other textual references to department chair. Each Chancellor to whom this applies is responsible for making clear to such an "equivalent officer" which of the duties and responsibilities of department chairs are being entrusted.

The chair's administrative duties include the following (special assignments may be added from time to time, and the Chancellor or Dean may specify additional duties):

1. To make teaching assignments in accordance with the policy described in Regulation #750 of the Academic Senate,* and to make other assignments of duty to members of the department staff.
2. To prepare the schedule of courses and of times and places for class meetings.
3. To establish and supervise procedures for compliance with University regulations on the use of guest lecturers and Academic Senate Regulation #546 on special studies courses.**

*750. (A) Only regularly appointed officers of instruction holding appropriate instructional titles may have substantial responsibility for the content and conduct of courses which are approved by the Academic Senate.

(B) Professors and professors in residence and adjunct professors of any rank, instructors, instructors in residence and adjunct instructors, and lecturers may give courses of any grade. Persons holding other instructional titles may teach lower division courses only, unless individually authorized to teach courses of higher grade by the appropriate Committee on Courses or Graduate Council. If a course is given in sections by several instructors, each instructor shall hold the required instructional title. (EC 15 Apr 74).

(C) Announcements of special study courses in which individual student work under the direction of various members of a department may state that presentation is by the staff, but a member of the department shall be designated as the instructor in charge.

(D) Only persons approved by the appropriate administrative officer, with the concurrence of the committee on courses concerned, may assist in instruction in courses authorized by the Academic Senate. (AM 16 Mar 70, 15 Jun 71)

(E) No student may serve as a reader or assistant in a course in which he/she is enrolled.

**546. Registration in special studies courses for undergraduates must be approved by the chair (or equivalent) of each department concerned. This approval must be based upon a written proposal submitted to the chair.

4. To make arrangements and assignments of duty for the counseling of students, and for the training and supervision of Teaching Assistants and other student teachers and teacher aides.
5. To prepare the budget and administer the financial affairs of the department, in accord with University procedures.
6. To schedule and recommend to the Chancellor sabbatical leaves and other leaves of absence for members of the department. (The chair may approve a leave of absence with pay for seven calendar days or less for attendance at a professional meeting or for the conduct of University business without submitting a leave of absence form.)
7. To report promptly the resignation or death of any member of the department.
8. To be responsible for the custody and authorized use of University property charged to the department, and for assigning departmental space and facilities to authorized activities in accordance with University policy and campus rules and regulations.
9. To be responsible for departmental observance of proper health and safety regulations, in coordination with the campus health and safety officer.
10. To maintain records and prepare reports in accord with University procedures.
11. To report any failure of a faculty or staff member to carry out responsibilities and to recommend appropriate disciplinary action.
12. To report annually on the department's affirmative action program, including a description of good faith efforts undertaken to ensure equal opportunity in appointment, promotion, and merit activities, as well as a report on affirmative action goals and results in accordance with campus policy.

In performing these duties, the chair is expected to seek the advice of faculty colleagues in a systematic way, and to provide for the conduct of department affairs in an orderly fashion through department meetings and the appointment of appropriate committees. The chair also is expected to seek student advice on matters of concern to students enrolled in the department's programs. In large departments, the chair may be assisted in the tasks involved in carrying out the responsibilities of the chair by a vice chair or other colleagues, and, when desired, by an executive committee chosen in an appropriate manner; however, the responsibilities themselves may not be delegated.