Position Description

For the Position of:

Dean
School of Arts and Humanities
Sonoma State University
2018
The Opportunity

Sonoma State University is committed to achieving excellence through teaching, scholarship, learning and inclusion. In line with the Seawolf Commitment, our values include respect, responsibility, excellence, and integrity. We strive to cultivate a community in which a diverse population can learn and work in an atmosphere of civility and respect. We encourage innovation, experimentation, and creativity, as well as contributions to equity and inclusion, in the pursuit of excellence for all members of our university community.

Sonoma State University continues to evolve with today’s changing world. Under the inspirational leadership of President Judy K. Sakaki, the University is focused on serving the region and the state through a commitment to access, affordability, and inclusivity. The university is proud of its liberal arts and sciences core mission, which is expressed throughout our academic schools in both disciplinary and interdisciplinary commitments to preparing students to solve real world problems. Sonoma State University inspires students to engage with the community and the world, and enables them to make their ideas a reality. The university is engaged in a broad-based strategic planning process. Once the plan is finalized later this year, Sonoma State University will be positioned to align its priorities with its resources and to invite all stakeholders to help take the university to the next level.

The new Dean of Arts and Humanities will be key to helping the institution deliver on our commitment to student, faculty, and staff success. We seek a leader who can champion academic excellence while looking for new opportunities that play to the strengths of the School and the University as a whole. The Dean will lead a School comprised of ten academic
units: American Multicultural Studies; Art Studio and Art History; Chicano and Latino Studies; Communication Studies; English; Hutchins School of Liberal Studies; Modern Languages and Literature; Music and Music Studio; Philosophy; and Theatre Arts and Dance. The School plays a critically important role in Sonoma State University’s General Education program and in the institution’s robust co-curricular cultural and intellectual programming that serves the institution and the broader community. The School also includes the Center for Performing Arts, the University Art Gallery, and a foundry. The School of Arts and Humanities is committed to hands-on, experiential learning that drives student success at Sonoma State. Furthermore, the Dean plays a critically important role in connecting academic programs and the broader campus to the Green Music Center.

This position represents an incredible leadership opportunity: the new Dean will step into an institution that has talented students who desire to learn and grow, faculty and staff dedicated to excellence, and a senior leadership team committed to inclusion and collaboration.

Position Summary

Reporting to the Lisa Vollendorf, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the School, and provides academic, intellectual, and administrative leadership to the School. The Dean sets and articulates the vision for the School within Sonoma State University's mission and goals, creates new opportunities for the School and the University, and directs its growth and development through shared academic governance. The Dean is responsible for promoting and improving the quality and effectiveness of the School's programs, including all aspects of teaching and learning; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and community engagement.

The Dean provides leadership for assessment and accreditation, and is responsible for meeting graduation and retention goals. The Dean is also responsible for fund diversification, including meeting all annual fundraising goals; assessing feasibility of new programs in the School of Extended and International Education; and promoting greater engagement with grants and contracts among School faculty. As a member of the Provost’s Leadership Council, the Dean has the responsibility to work collaboratively and collegially with all stakeholders to advance the goals and mission of the Division of Academic Affairs and the broader University.
Role & Responsibilities

Working closely with students, faculty, and staff in a tradition of collegial shared governance, the Dean provides academic leadership for the School. The incumbent is responsible for faculty and staff recruitment, retention, and development. Student success is a top priority for the institution, and the Dean is charged with leading all student success efforts in the School. They also supports and leads all School development efforts, including those related to private donations, corporate sponsorship, and grants and contracts activity. At a time when the institution is prioritizing investment in faculty success as a key component of student success, the ability to diversify revenue, promote more grants and contracts, and increase research, scholarship, and creative activity output will be an important responsibility for the incoming Dean. All of these efforts support the effective use of human, fiscal, and physical resources at the institution. The Dean is responsible for informed, evidence-based decision-making and progress towards all graduation and retention metrics for the School.

The Dean plays a critically important role as a leader in Academic Affairs, serving on University academic leadership teams and representing the School in all University matters. The Dean also is responsible for leading efforts to hire diverse faculty and staff and for developing and articulating the School’s role in supporting the broader strategic direction of the University. The Dean of Arts and Humanities furthermore plays an important role in leading efforts to connect the University to the Green Music Center.

The Dean also represents the School in the broader community through active leadership in the development of activities that further the mission of the School, the University, and the community. The Dean represents the institution through community and business organizations to further the mission of the University and the economic and cultural vitality of the region.

The Dean also has oversight responsibility for Centers and Institutes operating within the School, and for grant and contract activity undertaken by School faculty. In addition, the Dean often represents the School and the University at the California State University system level.
Minimum **Qualifications**

- An earned doctorate and an academic record to support appointment at the rank of professor in the School of Arts and Humanities;
- At least five years of successful administrative experience such as serving as a dean, associate dean, department chair, or similar position;
- A broad understanding of the disciplines within the school and their importance for higher education and in society;
- Demonstrated excellence in higher education leadership;
- A demonstrated commitment to maintaining and developing strong undergraduate and graduate programs;
- Experience, knowledge, and commitment to evidence-based decision-making; Strong communication, interpersonal, and managerial skills;
- Ability to work successfully and inclusively with diverse students, faculty, staff, and community members;
- Demonstrated commitment to effective, collegial decision-making within the context of shared governance and collective bargaining;
- Experience and vision for developing external funding and fostering community relationships.

**Campus and Community**

Sonoma State University is the university serving the North Bay. Located approximately 60 miles north of San Francisco International Airport, Sonoma State serves the region and the state through academically rigorous programs. The North Bay Fires in fall 2017 brought the community together. In the aftermath, the institution is focused on providing thought leadership, clear mechanisms for community engagement, and a site for dialogue and dreams to help the entire area recover and rebuild. We are proud to be #sonomastrong.

The Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities will help us build on our strength and our resilience. The incumbent will build on a legacy of stability and pride within the School and help
us take our arts and humanities programs to the next level, all the while supporting everyone who has given so much already to the institution.

This is the perfect position for a dynamic academic leader who wants to with extraordinary people at an extraordinary moment in the institution’s history. We are building our future together at Sonoma State. If you want to be part of this vision or want to nominate someone for the position, please contact us directly.

*Additional information regarding Sonoma State University may be found at [www.sonoma.edu](http://www.sonoma.edu)*

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER** for all qualified applicants, without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, marital status, status as a protected veteran, or any other status protected by federal, state or local law.
Search Team and Contact Information

Sonoma State University has partnered with Diversified Search to assist in this search process. Confidential nominations, recommendations or expressions of interest in the position may be directed to: SonomaStateUnivDeanAandH@divsearch.com

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. To formalize your interest in the position, please provide, via upload to the online application system (www.sonoma.edu/jobs) the following:

- Cover letter summarizing your qualifications and addressing what you envision as dynamic leadership in Arts and Humanities at a 21st century public university.
- Curriculum vitae or resume
- Three to five professional references

Join us in building our future.
Become part of the leadership team at Sonoma State University

Diversified Search team:

Gene E. Head, Jr.
Managing Director
404.942.6311
Gene.Head@divsearch.com

Stephanie Franklin
Senior Search Consultant
817-236-2207
Stephanie.Franklin@divsearch.com

Nancy Reese
Executive Assistant
305.679.6260
Nancy.Reese@divsearch.com

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