Being a Chair

THE “EXPERIENCED” CHAIR’S PERSPECTIVE

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Your Identity as a Chair

AND SOME PRETTY, FANCY FOOTWORK
What is your “Chair Identity”? 

- Identity as a function of history 
- Identity as a function of culture 
- Identity as a function of ideal 
- Identity as a function of personality
So You Think You Can Dance
Sometimes things don’t go as planned
Two Left Feet

Sometimes, nothing works as you imagine it will...

That meeting, that discussion, that report....
Imagine how it will work....and it doesn’t
See the meeting....and it bombs
Be energetic....and you are met with blank faces
Put Your Best Foot Forward

- Plan ahead
- Determine/Decide Priorities
- Take time to strategize
- Don’t worry if you feel like you are wasting time or spinning your wheels
- Make a decision and move forward....and then look back and assess
Setting the Stage

- Learn the dance
  - Know who the players are
  - Know what they care about

- Structure the scenery
  - Keep expectations clear
  - Keep timelines limited

- Carry-on regardless
  - They won’t know it’s not going as planned, unless you blink
Tip Toe

- When issues are “sensitive”
  - Personnel
  - Curriculum

- Seek advice
- Ask for Help
- Discover the back story
- Take your time
- ....Make a decision and Act
Tap Dance

- Not tap dancing around the issue
- Hammering things out ..... over and over
- Create a system
- If you have to submit things for more than one report, determine what you can re-use
- Plan ahead and overestimate the time it will take
- Know your data
- Consider delegating/reassigning the routine tasks (schedule, assessment)
Know when you have good data!
Do The Hokey Pokey

Know when you need to turn it around!

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<th>Teaching &amp; Learning</th>
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Source: Instruction and Research File and Student Data Course File
Includes Instructional Person-Years from all personnel categories.
Annualized FTE (C 1) produced for each person-year devoted to instruction (B 1 department total).
Pole Dance
Balancing Act

- Faculty
- Students
- Administration
  - Be consistent
  - Care about the students / Know your faculty
  - Who has the power - what do they care about
  - Ask other chairs what has worked for them....and what hasn’t
The Old Soft Shoe

More on data .... And knowing when to use your own to tell your story
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Source: Student Data Course File
Note: For Annual Headcounts, each student is counted once whether enrolled in summer, fall or spring. Students enrolled in more than one term during the year are included in the level of their latest term.
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Ickey Shuffle

You can’t stand alone!
Footloose

- Build a strong team
- Rely on them
- Let it go
- Re-assess
If the Shoe Fits

Recognize what works for you

Embrace your inner Cinderella
Sometimes the house will still fall on you

But you may just realize you had the power all along
Happy Feet

- Find the joy in the position
- Always bring something to the table
- Learn something knew.... all the time
There is no “wrong” way
There Is no “right” way
There IS your way!
Thank you!

- Questions?

- Comments?