



**Dean of Arts and Sciences
American University of Sharjah
Emirate of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates**

The American University of Sharjah (AUS), already one of the premier institutions of higher education in the Middle East, seeks an accomplished academic leader for its College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The University's next Dean of Arts and Sciences will have an exceptional opportunity to advance the outstanding reputation of this young institution. The new Dean is expected to assume office in summer 2010. This profile is designed to provide nominators and prospective candidates with helpful information about the University and the position of Dean of Arts and Sciences.

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

The American University of Sharjah (AUS) was founded in 1997 by the Ruler of Sharjah as a comprehensive, independent, non-profit coeducational university based on American models of higher education. AUS has achieved remarkable enrollment growth and academic distinction during its short history. The University now has over 5,000 students representing nearly eighty nations, 366 faculty (358 full time) and approximately 500 staff. The University admits students on the basis of their qualifications regardless of race, color, gender, religion, disabilities, age, or national origin. The University has proven to be an ideal setting for the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and as a multicultural campus of students, faculty and staff.

The University's four academic units – the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, the School of Architecture and Design, and the School of Business and Management – offer bachelor's degrees in 21 programs, minors in 41, and master's degrees in thirteen areas of study. In all of these programs, AUS integrates liberal studies and professional education to provide its graduates both breadth and specialization.

AUS is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (U.S.) and by the Ministry of Higher Education in the UAE. All engineering programs are fully accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET), and the School of Business and Management is pursuing accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The School of Architecture and Design is a candidate for accreditation with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). All instruction except languages is in English, and English is widely spoken throughout the United Arab Emirates.

The architecturally distinctive campus, located on 316 acres, includes nine academic buildings; administration, library and athletic structures; and housing accommodations for faculty, staff and students. Academic buildings are equipped with state-of-the-art science, engineering and language laboratories, digital studios and computer facilities. The Emirate of Sharjah, situated between the shores of the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, has beautiful beaches and a striking, arid countryside with both desert and mountains. Sharjah and the six other Emirates that comprise the UAE are characterized by robust economic growth, civility in public life, political stability, and the progressive investment of resources in public services such as education, health and housing. The University is located 10 miles from the center of Sharjah City and 15 miles from the city of Dubai.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF THE UNIVERSITY

A sense of excitement exists within the AUS community about its recent achievements and future opportunities. The following are a few of the assets that help to define the University:

- In the past decade, AUS has achieved remarkable success through the development of high quality academic programs, accreditation, financial sustainability, enrollment growth, faculty and staff recruitment, and the establishment of decision-making processes.
- Modern Sharjah is a major center of learning and the arts as confirmed by its designation in 1998 by UNESCO as the Cultural Capital of the Arab World.
- AUS has been a pioneer in the region by involving faculty in governance through the early establishment of a Faculty Senate.
- As a multicultural campus of students, faculty and staff, AUS presents a unique opportunity for a culturally diverse community to work together harmoniously for the common good.
- Because all faculty and some staff and their families live on campus in University provided housing, there is an exceptional opportunity to establish a strong sense of community.

For more information about the American University of Sharjah, please visit www.aus.edu

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS)

As a key academic unit of AUS since its founding in 1998, the College dedicates itself to providing every student with the varied and robust intellectual foundation for advanced study or for immediate employment after graduation. Undergraduate degree programs include the Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature, International Studies, and Mass Communication and the Bachelor of Science in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, and Mathematics. Graduate degrees include the Master of Arts in Translation and Interpreting (Arabic/English) and the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Currently the College is organized into ten departments, offering courses in the following areas: Arabic, biology, chemistry, cultural studies, education, English, environmental science, geography, history, literature, mass communication, mathematics, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology,

sociology, statistics, translation, women's studies and writing studies. The College provides core general education courses for all AUS baccalaureate students. In spring 2009, approximately 1,000 students were enrolled in CAS degrees – primarily at the undergraduate level, with 6% registered in graduate programs and 18% in the Intensive English Program. As the largest academic unit within AUS, the CAS faculty total 157, including 27 members in the Intensive English Program. As a young and dynamic College, CAS is continually updating and upgrading its course and degree offerings across the full array of liberal arts. This pattern of vigorous development is expected to increase over the course of the next decade as the University grows in response to the needs of the people whom it serves.

As AUS continues to evolve as an institution, the College of Arts and Sciences is gradually assuming its role in establishing the highest academic standards for AUS as the liberal arts core of the University. CAS possesses a number of assets that help to support its mission:

- A distinguished multicultural faculty, dedicated to excellence in teaching;
- A unique position in helping employers and families of the Gulf Region to appreciate the benefits of a liberal arts education;
- A diverse population of students who describe their CAS education as “preparing us for life and dealing with the world;”
- An emerging long-term vision for CAS and its role within the University;
- The opportunity for leadership in providing international academic seminars and conferences;
- The potential for collaborative cross-disciplinary opportunities within CAS and across the University;
- A consideration of research initiatives that will further define CAS for the future.

THE AGENDA

The new Dean of Arts and Sciences has the unique opportunity to lead a College that is poised to assume a more significant role in defining the presence of the American University of Sharjah in the region and the world. The Dean will work with the CAS community and the greater University community to determine how far and how fast the College will evolve. The areas to be addressed include the following:

Advancing the educational mission. This year, every academic unit within AUS is developing a strategic plan within a larger planning framework begun by Chancellor Peter Heath upon his arrival in 2008. A first task for the new Dean will be to make recommendations and oversee the shaping of the final plans for CAS and its composite units. In so doing, the new Dean will play a crucial role in shaping the goals and priorities of the College's educational program for the next several years, not only in determining the direction of the undergraduate majors and evolving graduate programs, but also in articulating ways for the College to fulfill its responsibility for delivering core curricula to non-CAS majors. Enhancing the cultural and intellectual life of the University through guest lecturers, visiting scholars, and musical and theatrical

performance opportunities also will be part of the new Dean's role. The Dean ultimately will ensure that the development of CAS and its programs are consistent with the priorities outlined in the University's overall plan. Further, the new Dean will be in a position to create the roadmap for achieving the goals identified and articulated in the planning process.

Advancing the research mission. AUS is the leading institution in a new initiative to create a consortium of research universities in the UAE to promote Research & Development and to create a more active research environment within the Gulf Region. It is anticipated that the new Dean will assume a leading role in this effort, both as a convener and facilitator of collaborative initiatives and as a communicator internally and externally of the importance of inter-institutional collaboration for the success of the region and of its member institutions. In fulfilling this agenda, the new Dean will play a key role in the development of the recently announced Technology Park, now in the planning phase, that will within the next few years be built contiguous to the AUS campus. CAS is poised to begin developing graduate research programs in key areas in the natural, physical, and social sciences and in the humanities. The Dean will work with the academic units to define a research agenda across the gamut of disciplines. Together with other senior officers of the University, the Dean will be engaged in providing appropriate incentive and reward systems to bring these aspirations to fruition.

Faculty recruitment and development. CAS has a distinguished faculty from a broad array of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and approximately 40% are relatively new to AUS. A primary task of the Dean will be the continued process of seeking out, hiring, and retaining a faculty of the highest possible caliber for the College. The Dean will be expected to inspire and engage the faculty in establishing benchmarks for academic excellence, and will work closely with other senior administrators to secure the resources to ensure their achievement. Areas of particular concern for faculty development include support for effective pedagogical methods, faculty mentoring, enhancing the advisement function, technological support for teaching, grants procurement and administration, and time management.

Collaboration and advocacy. Close collaboration with colleagues outside CAS will be a key component to the success of the new Dean and of CAS as a whole. This includes work with AUS administration and faculty, as well as building relations within the United Arab Emirates and beyond. The Dean will facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration within the University, and extend outreach beyond the University to provide opportunities for field experience, research and exchange programs for CAS students and faculty. At the same time, the new Dean must be an effective advocate for the programs and purposes of the College with many constituencies, both within and outside the institution.

Resource management. Key to the successful development and positioning of CAS will be the management of funds and allocation of both human and financial resources. The Dean will work with others within the AUS administration in the effort to secure funds in support of CAS goals for teaching, research and program development.

Infrastructure. In the first twelve years of its existence, the College of Arts and Sciences has moved through a number of configurations. Currently, there are ten departments with designated department heads and two associate deans, responsible for areas such as student advising, program assessment and special projects. The new Dean will have the opportunity to shape the academic units more distinctly, working with the faculty to determine effective partnering of disciplines and providing more delegation to departments for academic policies and governance. The Dean will also work with students in responding to their desire for a stronger College identity, with optimum class scheduling and cohesive class cohorts within major fields of study.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

The AUS Dean's search committee seeks a scholar with excellent academic credentials (Ph.D. required), and an outstanding record in teaching and administrative leadership. In addition, the successful candidate will bring the following qualities to the job:

- A passion for the liberal arts and sciences and the ability to inspire in others our shared conviction that broad-based, liberal education provides a superior means for preparing tomorrow's leaders;
- Vision and creativity in building programs across disciplines and supporting new ideas;
- A proven ability to recruit extraordinarily talented individuals as faculty and staff;
- Strong team-building and team-leading skills, including the ability to make tough decisions with transparency and sensitivity;
- Cross-cultural competence and experience in a diverse, preferably international, learning environment;
- Experience in exercising line responsibilities in strategic planning and budgeting and in personnel and financial administration.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Nominations and applications (to include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and five references) will be treated in confidence and should be sent electronically (MS Word) to Dr. Thomas J. Hochstettler, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chair of the Dean's Search Committee, American University of Sharjah at AUSdean@academic-search.com

The Search Committee will begin to review candidates in October 2009 and continue until an appointment is made. Confidential inquiries about this search are welcome and may be made to:

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