

Statement of Administrative Philosophy

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The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences is a complex, diverse, and diffuse department. As such, its Department Head must be a person that can adapt to and manage complex issues. The Department Head is a multifaceted position that takes an individual who is willing to listen, evaluate, synthesize, and lead. A simple and concise statement on Administrative Philosophy can be challenging. So I have compiled a list of key attributes that I have and that a Department Head needs in order to be an effective administrator.

Advocate

It is essential that the Department Head believe in the strengths and assets of the faculty and staff and be their strongest advocate. Interactions with other administrators, clientele, and agencies are collaborative in nature but must be approached by a Department Head that is a resilient advocate of the program. Advocating is more than just protecting the Department's interest; it is actively promoting our faculty, staff, and academic programs. My long association and knowledge of the talented individuals that have made this Department one of the top Wildlife and Fisheries Departments in the nation will make advocating for this Department a natural for me.

Facilitator

I have always seen myself as a facilitator through my leadership roles. It is easier to lead when consensus has been reached and common goals established by faculty and staff. Facilitating the process to reach consensus is one of the most important roles of a Department Head. Once common goals are established, I can facilitate those goals through cooperation, collaboration, and innovation. Facilitation is also searching for opportunities and encouraging appropriate faculty or staff to pursue selected prospects. It is important as the facilitator to be open to new ideas and opportunities and always be accessible to faculty, staff, constituents, agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other clientele.

Collaborator

Land Grant Universities with their multiple roles of teaching, research, and extension are complex, publicly accountable organizations that must rely on collaboration. A Department Head must have the ability to collaborate with the faculty, staff, administration, students, and alumni as well as with an array of other agencies, constituency groups, and the public. I truly believe that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" and that WFSC through collaboration can have a greater role in the training of students and the conservation of natural resources in Texas, the USA, and the world. As Department Head my objective would be to foster existing collaborations and develop new ones that enhance WFSC's impacts and prestige.

Innovator

As Department Head, status quo is not sufficient. WFSC has a strong program and in order to maintain such a program the Department Head must actively initiate innovation as senior faculty retire and junior faculty continue to develop their academic programs. Changes and conflicts are inevitable but can be guided or mediated to sustain a robust, innovative, and exceptional program. As Department Head I would look for and be open to realistic opportunities that promote individual and collaborate innovation by faculty and staff.

Mentor

Mentoring is the responsibility of all faculty and staff at an educational institution and should be embraced with commitment and passion. I have mentored graduate students, junior faculty and colleagues in professional Societies and see it as an opportunity to assist in the development of leadership capacities. Mentoring is a responsibility of all staff, instructors and administrators, particularly a Department Head. As Department Head I will engage ardently in mentoring and encouraging all faculty and staff to embrace it.

Visionary

A Department Head must be a visionary. WFSC has a vision statement and the Department Head must share this vision with others and inspire them to engage and promote it. As Department Head I will seek opportunities to promote our vision and expand its significance as we move into the future. I believe WFSC has exceptional people and opportunities to expand teaching, research, and extension/outreach that will contribute to state, national, and global natural resource conservation.

These key attributes should not be considered as distinct themes or in isolation. Each of these attributes interacts as a complex composite of skills and leadership abilities for a Department Head. These are attributes I possess and would apply them to lead this Department. I can guide WFSC with fair, ethical, and consistent governance that will meet the needs of the students, staff, faculty, College and our society.