

TYLER LEHMAN ADAMS, PH.D.
ADMINISTRATIVE STATEMENT

Administrators should be passionate, dynamic people truly inspired by the very personnel they manage. Administrators are inherently team-leaders. Administrators should always have an open-door policy. In my eight years of administrative experience, I have tried to remain a “people person” while paying attention to the details of duty. I think the best administrators are the ones who put their constituents’ needs before their own. An administrator should be an advocate for his or her line-management faculty and staff. Administrators should also know how to effectively delegate work to those most prepared to execute the task required. As an administrator, I realize that it is my network of colleagues performing the work for my units, and not me.

My first administrative appointment was as Graduate Program Director (Masters-only) in the Department of Communication at the University of Louisiana. I held this position for six years, until my 2011-2014 Fulbright appointment began in Kazakhstan. I thoroughly enjoyed this role, because it allowed me to work closely with the faculty and students on curriculum development, thesis projects, and post-graduation placement in Ph.D. programs. My students have gone on to major programs like Iowa, Texas A&M, Columbia, Georgia State, and Utah, to name a few. I still maintain close relationships with the graduate alumni and feel privileged to have been a part of their maturation in the discipline.

My second administrative appointment occurred while I was on appointment as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Almaty, Kazakhstan at KIMEP University (2011-2012). Originally, I went to KZ on leave from Louisiana – as a visiting professor. However, upon arrival, the President of the University tapped me to be the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. For an entire academic year, I managed a 3700-student English-speaking institution in Central Asia. It was a wonderful experience, and I cherish the interactions I had with faculty, staff, and students. At the conclusion of my Fulbright, I returned home to Louisiana for a year, until I was recruited to Saudi Arabia by the University of Business and Technology in Jeddah.

My third administrative appointment was as Vice Dean of Academic Affairs at UBT in the Jeddah College of Advertising for one academic year. At JCA, I was responsible for the hiring and management of all academic personnel. As well, I was responsible for curriculum development and grade-input management. Essentially, I ran the unit independently, while the Dean of JCA focused on larger-scale issues bearing upon the College. However, a more lucrative professor appointment would pull me away from Jeddah and UBT in January of 2015, and I relocated to Kuwait City to work at the Gulf University of Science and Technology as a Professor of Mass Communication.

My fourth administrative appointment was as Dean of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of the Bahamas in beautiful Nassau. At UB, I was directly responsible for the effective operations of three programs: (1) UB Online, also known as UB Open Learning, which spearheaded the institutional efforts to increase the reach of online education through the Commonwealth of 700 islands; (2) UB Academic Enhancement, which was the institution's remediation program that fast-tracked high school graduates into a proper admission status for full undergraduate entry into baccalaureate programs; and (3) UB Professional and Personal Development, which serviced the non-credit educational programs of the Oakes Field Campus in conjunction with governmental bodies and agencies. While the work was rewarding, the institution was under budgetary duress and I returned to the Middle East where I generally feel more comfortable and contextually stable.

Currently, I am Dean of Media and Mass Communication at the American University in the Emirates. Here, I manage the smooth and effective operations of 12 faculty members in a College containing some 400 majors distributed across program specializations in public relations (English and Arabic), Integrated Marketing Communication, International Relations, and Radio and Television Studies. Being a multimedia specialist, I find this work fully rewarding both personally and professionally. I intend to be in the GCC Region for the next decade, and am happy in my current location. However, should a Senior Management Position such as University Provost or President present itself, I would certainly entertain the notion as I have always wanted to be the Chief Operations Officer of a higher education body.