UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Position Description

TITLE: Dean, College of The Environment and Life Sciences

DIVISION: Academic Affairs

REPORTS TO: Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

GRADE: 22

SUPERVISES: Professional, technical and clerical staff; faculty

BASIC FUNCTION:

Develop an exciting and relevant vision for the future of environmental and life science education and research, emphasizing interdisciplinary initiatives. Provide leadership and oversight of undergraduate and graduate programs, curricula, personnel, research enterprise, and the budget of the College. Ensure efficient, effective, and contemporary programs of learning, discovery, extension, and outreach. Serve as the principal advocate for the faculty, staff, and students of the College, and be responsible for promoting a climate in which excellence, creativity, ethical decision-making, transparency, and diversity are fostered. Be entrepreneurial and innovative in solving problems. Raise funds and resources, engage in accreditation processes, and collaborate with other programs at the University. Build partnerships with local, national, and international academic/research institutions; business and industry; federal, state and local government; alumni and other community constituents. Ensure equitable, open, and strategic management of funds and resources within the College. Provide leadership for the university Land Grant mission and partners.

As a member of the Provost’s leadership team, actively support the mission and goals of the University and the College, and aggressively promote the University’s commitment to diversity, equity, and justice. As a member of the Council of Deans, participate in the development of strategic priorities of the Division of Academic Affairs, and assure that the goals of the College are aligned with institutional goals and priorities.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Provide effective leadership, direction, and support in establishing, communicating, and achieving short- and long-term advancement and initiatives to promote the academic, research, outreach and community service missions of the College and University.

Encourage and support a vibrant program of research and scholarship with meaning and impact, and foster a balanced understanding of and commitment to teaching and scholarship among faculty and students.
Serve as the chief public spokesperson for the College within the University, and to the public at both the state and federal levels; serve on committees and attend public hearings that affect the interests of the College.

Develop and implement innovative initiatives for positive change within the Institution.

Provide effective leadership and oversight for developing, allocating, and administering the College’s internal and external revenues as well as procurement, property management, personnel services, logistical support services, and program evaluation.

Provide overall leadership in the direction, recruitment, and development of faculty and staff.

Build faculty and staff morale and facilitate collegiality within the academic environment.

Provide oversight of student academic services.

Lead the effort to ensure efficient, effective, and creative curricula and educational delivery within the College.

Develop an understanding of and commitment to the array of disciplines represented within the College, and capitalize on opportunities to create interdisciplinary learning and discovery that advances the College and University.

Provide leadership for the University’s Land Grant mission and for developing and implementing a relevant and progressive model for extension programs. Ensure open and transparent management and allocation of Land Grant funds; strengthen connections with the Sea Grant and Urban Grant components of the University; and cultivate an effective working relationship with federal agencies integral to the College’s research and extension activities.

Ensure compliance with all applicable government and funding agency laws and regulations.

Ensure that the academic, research, and service duties and responsibilities of faculty and staff are performed at the highest level of achievement to support and enhance the mission of the College.

Secure appropriate funding from government, corporate and private sources to support the mission of the College.

Establish proactive relationships with potential donors and sponsors and ensure active and productive advancement programs in cooperation/collaboration with the University of Rhode Island Foundation.

Work with the Division of University Advancement to promote active communications with alumni, and oversee the College’s marketing and public relations efforts to maximize financial returns, ensure stability, and encourage manageable growth.
Demonstrate personal and intellectual integrity and leadership in promoting ethical standards within the College and in professional practice.

Develop initiatives to promote diversity among faculty, staff and students and promote a climate of accessibility to students and faculty.

QUALIFICATIONS:

REQUIRED:

1. An earned doctorate and academic credentials appropriate for appointment at the rank of full professor in one of the departments within the College;
2. Demonstrated leadership skills and relevant administrative experience and skills;
3. A demonstrated commitment to advancing diversity, inclusion, equity, and recruiting and retention of high performing human resources, with particular emphasis on gender and multicultural issues;
4. Demonstrated effective oral and written communication skills
5. Experience in financial management and budgeting, and human resources management;
6. Success in fundraising and/or securing government or private support for research, outreach, educational programs, or business development;
7. A demonstrated commitment to collaborative and collegial decision-making;
8. A record of personal integrity, ethical decision-making, and commitment to the best interests of the College and University;
9. Ability to work with and inspire others to achieve high levels of innovation and performance by setting challenging and attainable goals;
10. Ability to promote and market academic programs.

PREFERRED:

1. Strong record of accomplishments or credentials in scholarly research, education, and professional service;
2. Comprehensive understanding of and commitment to education, research, and outreach in a public learning-centered land, sea, and urban grant university, including the changing demands placed on students and faculty in the 21st century;
3. Commitment to create and sustain an academic culture aimed at attainment of excellence in education, research, and outreach;
4. Success in building partnerships and collaborative relationships within and outside of the university environment, including efforts to promote the development and transfer of technology and intellectual property to create economic growth.

ALL REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE MODIFICATION TO REASONABLY ACCOMMODATE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.