Rewards and Challenges in Considering a Transition from Faculty into Administration

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Teaching/Learning - Professional Development (Other)  
60-minute symposium, roundtable, or workshop  
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For many faculty, the landmarks of successfully being tenured and promoted to associate professor, as well as subsequent promotion to professor, serve as opportunities to assess the various aspects of the faculty role, such as teaching, research, service, mentorship, and program development, and where their passions lie across the roles. Upon achieving tenure and promotion, some faculty choose to focus primarily on their teaching, for others their research, and for some it is in service. One path that may present itself is the opportunity to become an administrator. Administrative roles such as department chair or associate dean may be the first such opportunities commonly available in higher education administration, and these may lead further down an administrative path to becoming a dean, vice provost, director of the university honors program or graduate school, among others.

Countless books and articles have been written on careers in higher education administration, including Gunsalus (2006), Archer and Bloom (2003), and Gmelch (2004), although little work exists in this area specifically related to the sport management discipline. At previous NASSM conferences, Mahony et al. (2009) and Ryan et al. (2014) have led professional development symposia on topics related to careers in academic administration, and Pastore et al. (2012) discussed transitioning back to the faculty role after having served in administration previously. Despite this moderate coverage of the topic, we believe there is sufficient interest in administrative career paths to once again conduct a similar symposia, noting that previous such sessions at NASSM conferences have possessed robust attendance among conference attendees.

This session will include several sport management academicians currently serving in administrative capacities on their respective campuses, and will be moderated by a faculty member not serving such a capacity in an attempt to elicit meaningful dialogue and discussion from the perspective of those considering such a career path. Topics that will be explored include:
1. Strategies for how to obtain an initial administrative position
2. Differences in types of leadership positions available, such as program director, department chair, associate dean, or director of university programs
3. Skills and experiences needed to be a successful administrator
4. Most rewarding and challenging aspects of the administrative roles
5. Differences in schedules and hours required
6. Strategies for personnel leadership, including hiring, supervising, and motivating both faculty and staff
7. Differences in leading as an internal vs. external hire
8. Challenges in maintaining effective work/life balance
9. Change in professional self-identity from a faculty member to an administrator
10. Impact on scholarship and teaching

The moderator will invite audience participation to explore these and related topics.