



The American Conference of Academic Deans (ACAD) invites session and workshop proposals for its 77th Annual Meeting, “Charting the Course in a Rapidly Changing Landscape.” The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Annual Meeting scheduled for January 20-23, 2021 in Seattle, WA.

The current pandemic is a dramatic instance of what is already a “new normal” of rapid, significant, and sometimes unexpected change in higher education. External forces--be they demographic trends, changing expectations for higher education, a rapidly evolving student population, or COVID-19--can derail academic leaders’ plans to advance their institutions and the profession itself. ACAD invites proposals for presentations and other sessions that explore how academic leaders can respond to and anticipate a dynamic environment in ways that advance their institutions into the future.

Possible topics could include:

- Shifting from the Reactive to the Transformative
- Maintaining a Focus on Mission (even in a crisis)
- Planful Pivots in Changing Times
- Friend or Foe: Leveraging Complexity
- Centering Equity and Inclusion in Strategic Change Efforts
- Building Flexibility and Nimbleness into Academic Planning
- The Role of New Leadership Styles and Creative Partnerships in Supporting Transformative Change
- Extracting Long-Term Strategies from Short-Term Responses
- Trauma-informed Teaching and Other Methods for Supporting Well Being

ACAD welcomes proposals from academic leaders who have successfully navigated the challenges of higher education to develop a strategic vision that lends itself to long-term sustainability and resiliency. We especially welcome proposals that demonstrate collaborative partnerships and connections between academic affairs and other campus units. Proposals that address issues of diversity, inclusivity, and equity within the context of leadership and sustainability in American higher education are encouraged.

The 2021 ACAD Annual Meeting program will feature sessions that academic administrators will find useful, challenging, and enriching. ACAD sessions are known for their emphasis on practice and the use of interactive methods of presentation. We urge all session proposers to consider using case studies, discussion of exemplars, workshops, and other approaches that actively engage participants and draw on the wisdom and practices of the group. The most successful sessions are those that invite participants to share their wisdom and experience and that include meaningful time for activities such as dialogue, reflection, and sharing.

We encourage proposers to work with their colleagues from other institutions to provide ACAD sessions with broader interest to its membership. We invite proposals from a broad array of institutional perspectives. Please keep in mind that ACAD's membership consists of academic leaders at the dean and provost level as well as associate deans and associate provosts. Presentations should address the needs of those populations. ACAD sessions also generate significant interest among the broader AAC&U annual meeting audience; these are professionals from a variety of institutions who share our commitment to effective academic leadership in these challenging times.

Proposals should include:

1. The title or topic of your session;
2. A brief narrative (up to 60 words, suitable for conference promotional materials) describing the focus of your presentation;
3. A longer statement (up to 500 words) describing the session content, format, and context for the session;
4. A brief explanation of how your session will be interactive (small group discussion, case study, etc.). In this section of your proposal, please indicate whether you would be willing to expand your session to a pre-conference workshop format (three-hour timeframe);
5. The names, titles, and institutional affiliations of the session presenters (maximum of three participants from any single institution). Clearly designate one session leader who will be the point of contact with ACAD and provide that person's email address, mailing address, and phone number;
6. Any audiovisual requests, such as projector and screen. Please explain why it is essential to your presentation.

Proposals are due by midnight (EST) on Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Proposals are being accepted online at: <https://acad.org/acad-annual-meeting-proposal-submission-form/>

Please contact Laura Matthias with any questions about the process at matthias@acad.org or by phone at 202-884-7419.

Please visit www.acad.org for more information about ACAD. We look forward to a thoughtful and provocative annual meeting!

American Conference of Academic Deans, Annual Meeting Program Committee
