I.C.3. The Provost

The Provost shall be the officer responsible for the conduct, coordination, and quality of the University’s academic programs and for the planning of their future development. Hence, the Provost is crucially involved in the recruitment and maintenance of a faculty of the highest distinction in research and teaching. He/she also is concerned with maintaining a student body of superior quality and thus exercises oversight over academic program standards and over the admissions process. All deans report to the Provost, and under the President, the Provost has ultimate authority for all academic budgets.

The Provost shall hold the academic rank of Professor, shall be a voting member of every Faculty of the University, and may at his or her discretion call a meeting of any Faculty. In the performance of his/her duties, the Provost shall consult with representatives of the Faculty.

The Provost is assisted in his role by several administrators with considerable responsibilities in their areas of expertise. The Vice Provost for Education has primary responsibility for the oversight of graduate and undergraduate education and other such educational programs and policies as the Provost shall designate. The Vice Provost for Faculty manages the academic personnel process, including recruitment of faculty, appointments, promotions, tenure cases and grievances. The Senior Vice Provost for Research is responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures that promote excellence in research across the University and for the overall operation of the University’s extensive research enterprise, as well as for the development and implementation of Penn’s strategy for technology transfer and entrepreneurial initiatives and the University’s corporate relations and regional economic development strategy. The Vice Provost for University Life is responsible for all nonacademic aspects of student life. This includes addressing a wide array of student concerns in order to improve the quality of campus life for students and other members of the University community. The Vice Provost and Director of Libraries administers the University library system and plays an important role in the dissemination of information on campus.

(Almanac, September 8, 2009)