WHAT DEANS ARE READING

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Gunsalus offers conceptual tools and practical skills to help academic administrators handle personnel problems. Starting each chapter with a case study (often with department chair as decision maker), she offers pragmatic advice in such areas as complaints, negotiation, and bullies.


Prioritizing Academic Programs and Service: Reallocation of Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance, Robert C. Dickeson (1999)

Academic Freedom and Educational Responsibility, NOTE FROM DEAN: This is not a book but an essay published by AAC&U which I give to new faculty. I take them to lunch and discuss it. The essay does a good job defining what academic freedom is and is not.


Rethinking Faculty Work: Higher Education’s Strategic Imperative, J. M. Gappa, A. E. Austin and A. G. Trice (2007)


Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocation of Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance, Robert C. Dickeson (1999)


The Department Chair Primer: Leading and Managing Academic Departments, Don Chu (2006)

Departments that Work: Building and Sustaining Cultures of Excellence in Academic Programs, Jon F. Wergin and Estela Mara Bensimon (2002)


The Joseph story-arc within the book of Genesis. NOTE FROM DEAN: It is a nice little exposition of management and managers.

LEADERSHIP AND LEADERS

The authors posit that effective leadership often entails danger. Since it is easy to act timidly or make mistakes in the midst of the need for change, they offer strategies to help embolden people at any level of an organization (or in their personal life) to take risks.

The Art of War, Sun Tzu (3)
Written by the Chinese warrior Sun Tzu circa 500 BC, this small volume contains thirteen chapters of advice for sure victory on the battlefield. Many see parallels for succeeding in other settings, such as business, government, and higher education.

On Becoming a Leader, Warren Bennis (2009)

Now, Discover Your Strengths, Marcus Buckingham and Don O. Clifton (2001)


On Leadership, John W. Gardner (1993)

Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun, Wess Roberts (1990)

Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World, Margaret J. Wheatley (1992; 2006)


High Altitude Leadership: What the World’s Most Forbidding Peaks Teach Us About Success, Chris Warner and Don Schmincke (2008)

Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times, Donald T. Phillips (1993)


The Prince, Niccolò Machiavelli (various editions)
HIGHER EDUCATION

Our Underachieving Colleges, Derek Bok (2006) [3]
This book focuses on the progress of college students toward the widely accepted goals of an undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences, arguing that colleges and universities are falling well short in areas such as writing, critical thinking, quantitative skills, and moral reasoning.


The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions, William G. Bowen, Derek Bok, and Glenn C. Lowery (2000)


Failing the Future: A Dean Looks at Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century (portions of essays and certain chapters), Annette Kolodny (2000)


The University in Ruins, Bill Readings (1996)


The Creation of the Future: The Role of the American University, Frank Harold Trevor Rhodes (2001)


Liberal Education (journal)

AAC&U Publications (particularly College Learning for the New Global Century)


The Learning Paradigm College, John Tagg and Peter T. Ewell (2003)

Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds, Richard J. Light (2001)


The Art of Changing the Brain: Enriching the Practice of Teaching by Exploring the Biology of Learning, James Zull (2002)

Everything put out by AAC&U

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Available Light –Anthropological Reflections on Philosophical Topics, Clifford Geertz (2001)


In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women’s Development, Carol Gilligan (1982)

Motherhood, the Elephant in the Laboratory: Women Scientists Speak Out, edited by Emily Monosson (2008)

No Contest: The Case Against Competition, Alfie Kohn (1986)

Pasteur’s Quadrant: Basic Science and Technological Innovation, Donald E. Stokes (1997)

Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions, Dan Ariely (2008)

Punished Rewards: The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A’s, Praise, and Other Bribes, Alfie Kohn (1999)

The Ethics of Identity, Kwame Anthony Appiah (2007)

The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo’s First 100 Days, Karen J. Greenberg (2009)

The Gift, Lewis Hyde (1983)

The Trickster Makes This World: Mischief, Myth, and Art, Lewis Hyde (1993)

Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap… and Others Don’t, Jim Collins (2001) [3]
Collins and his team of researchers identify a set of elite companies that sustained “greatness” for at least 15 years. They deduce five attributes common to these companies, including the by-now famous “hedgehog concept.” (A sequel offered a corollary for public/non-profit organizations.)

How the Mighty Fall, and Why Some Companies Never Give In, Jim Collins (2009) [3]
Business guru Jim Collins posits that every institution, no matter how great, is vulnerable to decline. But organizations that find themselves failing can reverse the course. Decline, he concludes, is largely self-inflicted. Based upon careful research, he proposes five stages of decline.


Reframing Organizations: Artistry, Choice, and Leadership, Lee G. Bolman and Terrence E. Deal (several editions)
Bringing Out the Best in People: How to Enjoy Helping Others Excel, Alan Loy McGinnis (1985)
Quick Emotional Intelligence Activities for Busy Managers: 50 Team Exercises That Get Results in Just 15 Minutes, Adele B. Lynn (2007)


Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization, Dave Logan, John King, and Halee Fischer-Wright (2008)

Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization, Dave Logan, John King, and Halee Fischer-Wright (2008)

THE STATE OF THE WORLD
The Post-American World, Fareed Zakaria (2009)
Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity, Ulrich Beck (1992)

SELF IMPROVEMENT
In this highly readable book, Pink argues that individuals, organizations, and the US economy as a whole must tap the creative (right) side of the brain in order to excel in the coming decades. Technical skills alone will not be enough. He offers exercises to help strengthen what he calls the essential “Six Senses” of creativity: Design, Story, Symphony, Empathy, Play, and Meaning.


The RealAge Makeover: Take Years off Your Looks and Add Them to Your Life, Michael F. Roizen (1999)
Quick Emotional Intelligence Activities for Busy Managers: 50 Team Exercises That Get Results in Just 15 Minutes, Adele B. Lynn (2007)

The One Minute Manager, Kenneth H. Blanchard and Spencer Johnson (1982)


PROSE, POETRY, AND EXPERIENCES
Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace… One School at at Time, Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (2007) [2]
An inspirational story of one man’s efforts to address poverty, educate girls, and overcome cultural divides.

Good Poems and Good Poems for Hard Times, Garrison Keillor. NOTE FROM DEAN: It seems that I can find an appropriate, short poem that goes to the heart of virtually every situation that arises

Shakespeare, The Complete Works
The Absolutely True Diary of Part-Time Indian, Alexie Sherman (2007)