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Department chairs play key role in education.

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Department chairs play key role in education

In higher education, it has always been said that the number one job of a faculty member is to teach. Department chairs are one of the most difficult jobs. Chairs usually take over a decade to make it to this position, and they have to work hard to maintain their position. Often, chairs have to deal with problems that arise in the day-to-day operation of their department, such as fundraising, recruiting of students and other forms of retribution. Administration, while having to still deal with problems like budget cuts and new technologies, may not have to deal with the day-to-day issues that department chairs face.

The role of a department chair is expected to be demanding, with chair having to live with the decisions that they make without the support of their colleagues. The role of department chairs is new and they are expected to be always on call and available.

A recent study conducted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that only 81 percent of them had tenure at the time that they became chairs. Only about half of the half of respondents in 1991.

The chairs now say they're part of both the faculty and the administration, as opposed to the chairs responding to the survey said that they only 10 percent had tenure at the time that they became chairs. The concept of tenure is important to chairs because it provides them with job security.

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