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| **crestGh** | **Faculty** |  | **Job Grade 20** |
| DATE PROFILE LAST UPDATED | November 2013 |

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|  |  |  | NAME |
| **JOB TITLE** | Dean | **INCUMBENT** |  |
| **FACULTY** |  | **REPORTING STRUCTURE** | While the Dean is elected by the Faculty, s/he is a member of senior management of the institution. |
| **JOB TYPE (ACADEMIC/SUPPORT)** | Academic | **CONTRACT/PERMANENT** | 5 year contract position |

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| ***MAIN JOB OBJECTIVE/S*** |
| The role of the Dean in relation to the specific Faculty is to:   1. Provide intellectual and academic leadership, 2. Leadership and management of people, processes, resources and associated administration, 3. Represent the Faculty both internally and externally to the institution, championing of the needs of the Faculty and departments where necessary,   In addition, as a member of the senior management team of the institution, the Dean is required to:   1. Contribute to overall institutional leadership and direction of the University.   It is recognised that these roles intersect and are integrally connected. |

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| ***DESCRIPTION OF KEY ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES*** | ***STANDARD EXPECTED*** |
| ***Provide intellectual and academic leadership***  In relation to the relevant Faculty, Deans are charged with the responsibility of:   1. Determining, implementing and evaluating the strategic direction of the Faculty in terms of teaching, research and community engagement, with particular reference to the strategic imperatives of the University. This includes navigating the tensions that may exist between Faculty priorities and institutional priorities; 2. Driving the awareness within the Faculty and particularly at the level of HoDs of the changes, challenges and opportunities within the HE sector, strategic imperatives of the institution and what this means for academic departments, supporting HoDs in the exploration of this at the departmental level and navigating the tensions that exist between departmental and Faculty priorities; 3. Ensuring the growth and development of the Faculty through its departments and other research entities, looking for possible synergies and encouraging collaboration and co-operation at multiple levels (departmental, Faculty and institutional and inter-institutional); 4. Facilitating and driving quality teaching, research and community engagement by faculty staff within academic departments and intervening when necessary; 5. Ensuring the conceptualisation, interrogation, implementation and review of academic standards, processes and systems at the level of the department and Faculty and contributing to such explorations at the institutional level; 6. Encouraging the identification of particular research niches within the Faculty, looking for possible collaboration and co-operation at multiple levels (departmental, Faculty and institutional) and where possible, facilitating such collaboration; 7. Working with HODs in managing the sometimes divergent interests between the careers of individual staff members and the overall exigencies of the faculty and departments as regards teaching and research.   As a member of the senior leadership of the institution, the Dean is responsible for:   1. Championing the academic endeavour and ensuring that this remains the focus of the institution and that decisions are made that support (and do not undermine) these endeavours; 2. Participating in the key debates related to the current and future functioning of the institution; 3. Contributing to institutional strategic plans beyond just the particular Faculty plans; 4. Contributing to the establishment and/or review of institutional policies, procedural documents, protocols etc particularly where they impact Faculty (academic and support staff) and seeking to represent the interests of the Faculty; 5. Leading key strategic exploratory initiatives e.g., related to teaching and learning, research and community engagement, institutional structures, and making recommendations to the relevant fora . Where necessary, this may lead to the championing of the initiative institutionally and seeing through its implementation through the relevant structures; 6. Participating and in some instances, chairing institutional review processes e.g. of divisions, institutes, centres | The Dean’s academic role is premised on the basis that the Dean is elected by peers. The Dean strives to uphold the principle of collegiality through consultation with members of faculty. Much of the work of the Dean in terms of leadership is done with and through Heads of Departments as the departmental autonomy[[1]](#footnote-1) must be respected. Intervention by the Dean is the last resort.   1. Strategic plans are appropriate (in terms of focus, resources, institutional imperatives but allowing for “stretch”). Plans are efficiently and effectively implemented. The Dean is able to get support for the plans and is able to navigate conflicts and tensions; 2. The Dean keeps abreast of HE and institutional developments and ensures that the Faculty is made aware of these timeously. Alternative communication strategies are used to ensure timeous and accurate communication. The Dean collaborates with other areas of the University to access necessary information; 3. Creative and innovative strategies are pursued by the Dean and a climate is created by the Dean within the Faculty that fosters innovation and creativity. With Faculty support for initiatives, the Dean will champion this effectively at various levels in the institution; 4. The Dean ensures the implementation of the relevant frameworks for teaching, research and Community Engagement (CE) within the University. Where there are problems, the Dean champions the resolution of these productively; 5. Academic standards, processes and systems at the Faculty level are aligned with those at the institutional level. Implementation is effective. Where problems exist, the Dean appropriately motivates for changes within the institution; 6. Research niches are effectively and efficiently identified and departments encouraged to pursue these. Creatively and innovation is demonstrated; 7. Conflicts are effectively navigated and effective solutions are found; 8. The Dean is courageous in speaking up when necessary and is able to differentiate effectively between managerialism and good management[[2]](#footnote-2); 9. Participation is informed, effective and timeous; 10. The Dean is able to differentiate between Faculty and institutional needs and navigate any tensions between these effectively; 11. Contribution is effective, accurately reflects the interests of the Faculty and is done timeously; 12. Innovation and creativity is demonstrated. The Dean is willing to challenge others to think differently; 13. Participation is informed, effective and timeous. |
| ***Leadership and Management of people and processes and associated administration***  The Dean is responsible for:   1. Positioning of the Faculty inter-alia: marketing and publicising of the Faculty and its departments; 2. Where feasible, to raise funds and/or work collaboratively with the relevant institutional offices to raise funds for particular initiatives of the Faculty; 3. Ensuring the smooth functioning of the Faculty in respect of students inter-alia: admissions, registrations, curriculum approvals, exclusions, interaction with parents, graduation, examinations including liaison with external examiners, for postgraduate students: approval of allocation of supervisors and appointment of examiners, dealing with appeals for Duly Performance Certificates, participating in schools’ visits, approving student exchanges, approval of transfer of credits from other Universities, approval of awards of aegrotats, supplementary or special examinations; 4. Ensuring the smooth functioning of the faculty in respect of staff inter-alia: staffing appointments, new staff induction and orientation, probation, personal promotions, consideration of academic leave applications, dealing with academic staffing problems; 5. Ensuring the smooth functioning of academic departments through the effective appointment of HoDs, supporting and guiding them, conducting their probation (where relevant) and/or reviews; 6. Ensuring appropriate capacity in the Faculty to support Dean’s work including:  * Working collaboratively with the Deputy Dean to establish areas of responsibility within the overall portfolio of the leadership and management work of the Faculty; * Involving senior staff in the Faculty in particular project work of the Faculty;  1. Managing the administrative staff of the Faculty inter-alia: selection of staff, staff induction and orientation, probation, dealing with performance problems including disciplining of staff, training and development of staff, motivation and recognition of staff including motivating for merit awards where appropriate; 2. Ensuring appropriate implementation of systems and processes to ensure knowledge management; 3. Participating in a variety of University Committees and in some cases, Chairing a Committee. | 1. The Dean is able to engage effectively with others inside and outside the institution, fostering productive relationships e.g. with the key structures such as CHERTL and support staff structures in the institution including the Registrar’s Division, Research office, Finance, HR, Community Engagement (CE) etc). 2. Appropriate media are used and there is collaboration with the Marketing and Communications Division. A positive but realistic image of the institution and faculty is portrayed; 3. Appropriate strategies are pursued and there is collaboration with the Alumni Relations and Development Division; 4. Processes, systems and practices are efficient and effective. Evaluation of processes under Faculty control takes place and improvements are made. Input on processes owned by other areas e.g. Registrar’s Division, Dean of Students Division, HR Division is provided. Where there are problems, the Dean is persistent and consistent in finding a solution together with the relevant area.   The Dean executes his/her responsibilities effectively and efficiently within the relevant frameworks. Appropriate advice is given to staff in line with policy parameters;   1. Processes related to HoDs are executed within the relevant frameworks efficiently and effectively. The Dean seeks to establish a relationship of trust and collaboration and respects departmental autonomy; 2. The Dean is able to effectively negotiate the delegation of work to the Deputy Dean and is able to ensure commitment and follow through of the Deputy Dean recognising that this is not a line management relationship; 3. Management of administrative staff are in line with relevant HR frameworks and this is done effectively and efficiently. The Dean seeks to establish a productive, supportive relationship; 4. Effective and efficient systems are implemented that allow for continuity from one Dean to another, from the Dean to Deputy Dean, during periods of absence as well as in the event of the resignation of administrative staff in the Faculty; 5. There is active participation in University Committees; responsibilities are executed appropriately and timeously. |
| ***Effective internal and external representation of the Faculty and liaison between Faculty and other stakeholders***  Within the institution, the Dean is responsible for:   1. Representing the Faculty’s interests at the institutional level; 2. Acting as a liaison between Faculty and other stakeholders within the University; 3. Communicating to the Faculty about institutional imperatives and allocation of resources particularly where scarce resources have been allocated elsewhere; 4. Creating awareness in the Faculty of institutional interests and where this may be in conflict with those of the Faculty, navigating these tensions and potential conflicts;   Outside of the institution, the Dean is responsible for:   1. Representing the Faculty’s interests and at times, also representing the institution’s interests; 2. Liaising with similar Faculties at other Universities as required; 3. Participation in the national Deans’ association or equivalent structure. | The Dean is able to engage effectively with others inside and outside of the institution, fostering productive relationships and promoting a positive but realistic image of the institution.  Communication with stakeholders, internal and external, is timeous, uses appropriate media and is accurate. |

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| ***DIRECT CONTACTS OF THE JOBHOLDER (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)*** |

**INTERNAL CONTACT:**

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| **TYPE OF CONTACT** | **DAILY/MONTHLY**  **ANNUAL** | **PURPOSE OF CONTACT** |
| Top management | As required | Involvement in strategic issues and in relation to execution of own Faculty strategic responsibilities |
| Heads of academic departments | As required | To guide and support HoDs, follow-through on issues requiring implementation, in relation to Faculty, strategic and budget issues |
| Senior management and where relevant, support staff of the various Divisions | As required | In relation to support for own Faculty |
| Staff within Faculty | As required | To guide and support as regards access to resources, their career at RU including opportunities and development needed for personal promotion, in dealing with staff grievances. |
| Students | As required | In relation to their studies within the Faculty |

**EXTERNAL CONTACT:**

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| **TYPE OF CONTACT** | **DAILY/MONTHLY**  **ANNUAL** | **PURPOSE OF CONTACT** |
| Research organisations | As required | In exploring opportunities for research for Faculty and departments in Faculty |
| External academics | As required | For purposes of review of curriculum, departments, initiatives; for the review of individual applications for personal promotion, involvement in research; to explore collaborative work (research, teaching and/or community engagement) |
| Other Faculties at other Universities; other Deans | As required | To benchmark practices, programmes, initiatives |

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| ***JOB REQUIREMENTS*** |
| ***EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE***  While the education and experience of the Dean is not prescriptive and the requirements may be different in different Faculties, the Dean of Science shall have the following attributes:   * At least a PhD in a discipline relevant to the Science Faculty at Rhodes University * Typically, at least at the level of Associate-Professor for 3 years * Typically at least 10 years working experience as an academic and/or researcher   The individual being considered as Dean, has a very good track record in the following areas:   * Own research, preferably having led initiatives at the departmental/Faculty level to improve research within the department/Faculty * Supervision of post-graduates, up to PhD level, with a keen understanding of the role of supervisor * Teaching at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels, preferably having led initiatives at the departmental/Faculty level to review, improve curriculum and assessment in the department/Faculty * Having explored Community engagement (CE) linkages in terms of teaching and research * Leadership and management roles at the departmental or faculty level having led initiatives at the departmental/Faculty level to review current functioning or explore new processes or taken responsibility for large projects. These can be formal (e.g. HoD, Deputy HoD, Acting HoD, Head of research or teaching within the department) or informal roles (e.g. mentoring of young staff, research leadership roles, head of a departmental or Faculty project) * Co-ordination and administration at the departmental or faculty level * Involvement in University Committees such as Faculty, Senate, Institutional Planning Committee with exposure to the myriad of academic student and staff processes. |
| ***COMPETENCIES – I.E. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES***  **Academic competencies:**   * Ability to conduct research including planning for research, with an understanding of the research process and what this means for academics in the Faculty * Ability to foster a research culture in the Faculty * Ability to supervise post-graduates, with an understanding of the experiences and needs of post-graduate students and therefore with a knowledge of the supervision process * Ability to teach at the undergraduate and post-graduate level with an understanding of the requirements of curriculum development, facilitation and assessment * Ability to foster a culture that values teaching & learning and that prizes excellence in the Faculty * Understanding of what community engagement means within the Faculty and with an ability to encourage participation by academics in CE * Strong planning, organisational and administrative skills with the skills and resilience to cope with multiple demands and periods of high volume in terms of work and stress * Sound numerical ability, able to work with budgets and analyses of student and staff statistics   **Leadership competencies:**   * Understanding of the social, political and economic challenges facing HE institutions today, at the global and national levels and the implications of this for an institution such as Rhodes University and Faculty * Strong understanding of the Rhodes university context, how the institution operates, where to access information * Unquestionable personal integrity with a keen sense of fairness, able to balance the competing demands within a HE institution with staff, student, stakeholder expectations and institutional resources * Personal credibility and an ability to engender respect and instill confidence in people at different levels within the institution as well as those outside of the institution * Ability to inspire and encourage colleagues, and a commitment to collegiality * Ability to develop productive relationships with staff in support Divisions holding these Divisions accountable to the agreed service levels * Ability to think creatively and innovatively particularly as regards the academic project * People skills with a consultative and inclusive style, able to build consensus and commitment to new initiatives, commitment to transparent management * Ability to develop, articulate and implement strategic goals   **Personal attributes**:   * Passion to see staff, students, the Faculty and the institution developing and succeeding * High level of personal responsibility and a strong sense of accountability * High level of professionalism and conduct that will enhance the reputation of the University * Personal flexibility: willing to consider alternative perspectives and ideas but with an ability to make difficult decisions independently * Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with an ability to relate to staff at different occupational levels as well as from different cultures and backgrounds * Champions transformation and diversity: culturally aware and sensitive, fosters an attitude of appreciating diversity, has the ability to drive the transformation agenda (staff, students, curriculum and institutional culture) * Seeks feedback, able to withstand criticism and use constructive criticism to improve |
| ***MANAGEMENT DUTIES***  This post has a very strong line management responsibility as articulated in the profile. |
| ***NUMBERS AND JOB TITLES OF STAFF REPORTING TO DEAN***   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Faculty** | **Director reports in terms of HoDs, Deputy HoDs and Directors of Institutes (Deputy Dean is not regarded as a direct report as this is a Faculty elected position) and Faculty Officer** | **Indirect reports inclusive of all academic and support staff**  **(need to get this from HR)** | | Science | 13 HoDs + Faculty Officer = 14 plus involvement with ESU staff+ Directors BioBRU, IWR, EBRU | About 160 |   For indirect reports, note:  a) Not included the NRF chairs or the 10 or so academics on development  b) None of staff on contract, payroll 2 which means those staff in institutes have not been included |
| ***FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (only if applicable)*** |
| ***PROJECT MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY***  Project management is not a substantive element of this post. From time to time, there may be projects that require management e.g. infrastructure projects. |
| ***PROCESS MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY***  Process management is not a substantive element of this post. Processes within the Faculty relate to student issues (processes driven by Registrar); staff issues (processes drive by Human Resources); and resource issues (processes driven primarily by Finance Division and Infrastructure and Operations Division). |
| ***COST/FINANCIAL CONTROL***  (i)Is the jobholder responsible for any aspect of cost control or for materials, stock or equipment? No  (ii) Does the jobholder have a direct responsibility for controlling operational costs or expenses? If so, what is the annual budget (ignoring direct and indirect remuneration costs)?  The Dean does have a discretionary budget as follows:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Faculty** | **Discretionary grant at 2013 values** | | Science | 1. Faculty research discretionary fund: R150 000  2. Deans repair fund: R50 000 and  3. Faculty running: R50 000 | |
| ***LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY***  Who must authorize, review or clear decisions taken with regard to the jobholder’s functions?  Decisions are taken within certain frameworks and are therefore taken independently.  What percentage of tasks can be carried out without supervisory input and/ or control? 100%  What critical decisions are the jobholder normally authorized and empowered to make?  Within the policies and determined strategies of the Institution and the Faculty, the job holder may make decisions related to the execution of this post. |
| ***PLANNING***   1. What is the longest (macro) period that the jobholder has to plan ahead? Three to six years 2. Typically how long are the micro phases/time periods that the macro planning is divided into? 12 months |
| ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***  Who prepared the job profile? Director: HR  Please list all those who have been consulted in the drafting of this profile.  DVC: Research and Development, Dean of Science, Dean of Commerce have given input. Dean of Humanities has been invited to give input. Approved: Faculty, Senate and Council (12 September 2013), Faculty Workshop on the 2nd of December 2013 |

1. Departmental autonomy is understood to mean that while departments are required to work within the policies, procedural documents, protocols etc and strategic imperatives of the University and Faculty, how exactly departments meet these requirements is up to the department to determine. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Managerialism refers to decisions that are made without consideration to the academic project, that undermine the academic project and where decision are often made with reference to financial motives, or stakeholder pressures. By contrast, good management refers to decisions that ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the institution which in turn facilitate and support the academic project. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)