

It would be an honor to serve as Chair of the Council of Chairs after having been a representative to the organization for over nine years. While the state of COVID moves from a pandemic to an endemic, the effect of COVID on our departments are still profound in a number of ways and will likely linger for years to come. All of us are faced with challenges related to students shifting from online education to in person instructions, graduate students' research being affected by partial lab shutdowns in the past, as well as financial challenges or staff shortages to just name a few. This is an unprecedented situation, but I believe that there is value in pooling our experiences and formulating best practices so that not every department has to invent the wheel from scratch. As the chair of the Council of Chairs, I want to start a robust data collection on how we are still affected by decision resulting from COVID as well as what lessons were learned and how to best address existing challenges. I strongly believe that our departments would all benefit from learning about each other's approaches and that this will also facilitate the interactions with the deans and upper administrations at our home institutions.

