The purpose of the Provost’s and Deans’ Council is to advance the educational mission of the university across the six colleges, graduate studies, and university libraries, through inter-college/library communication, collaboration, strategic planning, and oversight. As the chief academic officer, the provost directs academic affairs and informs the deans of University System and the president’s initiatives. The deans advise the provost regarding issues which affect academic affairs and guide academic policies and procedures for the university. Provost’s and Deans’ Council discussion topics reflect areas for which the provost and deans are responsible. Meeting topics are suggested by individual deans, the provost, or the provost’s staff.

Typical areas of deans’ responsibility include inter-college/library leadership in the:
- Promotion and maintenance of academic standards
- Planning and coordination of academic programs
- Recruitment, retention, and graduation processes for students
- Selection, retention, promotion, and development processes for faculty and staff
- Planning and management of resources and facilities
  (As described in “The Responsibilities of Deans of Colleges with Faculty at Towson University” and the responsibilities of the Dean of University Libraries.)

Other areas of deans’ responsibility include:
- Facilitation and implementation of president’s goals and university initiatives
- Development of external partnerships
- Strategic planning
- Donor cultivation
- Participation in and implementation of USM System initiatives

The Provost’s and Deans’ Council meets at least twice each month. The schedule of meetings is timed to coordinate communication among different university constituencies. Some meetings each year are set aside for broader conceptual discussions and consideration of the complexity of issues affecting academic affairs. The meetings are facilitated by the Provost’s Office.

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