Dean of the University Libraries

Georgia Southern University invites applications and nominations for the position of dean of the University Libraries. The home campus for this position is the Statesboro campus, but the position requires travel between campuses.

Georgia Southern University is the state’s largest and most comprehensive center of higher education south of Atlanta. With 141 degree programs, Georgia Southern University is a public comprehensive and Carnegie Doctoral/R2 university offering associate, bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. Georgia Southern University serves more than 27,000 students on three vibrant campuses—the Armstrong campus in Savannah, the Statesboro campus, and the Liberty campus in Hinesville. Georgia Southern offers an attractive campus environment that encourages learning, discovery, and personal growth. Nationally accredited academic programs prepare diverse scholars for leadership and service as working citizens.

Since 1906, the University’s hallmark has been a culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom, and promotes student growth and life success. Central to the University’s mission is the faculty’s dedication to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement. Faculty, staff, and students embrace the values of integrity, civility, kindness, respect, sustainability, citizenship, and social responsibility in every facet of the University.

Within this setting, the University Libraries support the University’s mission by providing access to information, collections, and services designed to meet the scholarly needs of the University and its diverse community. The libraries advance independent lifelong learning, information literacy, intellectual and creative discovery, and student success. Fostering a welcoming and innovative learning environment, both physically and virtually, for research, collaboration, and preservation of resources, the University Libraries upholds the intellectual freedom principles as stated by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Position Description. Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the dean serves as the chief administrative officer of the libraries and is regarded as an intellectual leader within the libraries, across all campuses, and in the community. The dean sets the vision for the libraries within the framework of the University’s strategic values and priorities, establishes new opportunities for the libraries, and directs its growth and development through shared academic governance. Additionally, the dean participates in university-wide planning and is responsible for the libraries’ quality, budget, development and allocation of resources, and administration. The dean communicates the official business of the libraries to university authorities, faculty, students, staff, and external constituencies and provides leadership in fundraising to augment state appropriations. This position is a fiscal year (12-month), tenured, appointment, and the salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Required Qualifications:

- Master degree from an ALA-accredited school of library/information science or foreign equivalent.
- Outstanding record of professional librarianship, research, and service appropriate to the rank of tenured full professor in the libraries.
- Demonstrated successful academic administrative experience with a minimum of three years at or above the department chair level (or commensurate experience), including budget and personnel experience.
- Experience with strategic planning and program development.
• Ability to develop and inspire a clear vision for the libraries consistent with the University’s mission and best practices.
• Ability to interact collegially and effectively with all internal and external constituencies, and to work in a collegial environment with shared governance.
• Demonstrated knowledge of traditional library functions, emerging technologies, and trends in higher education that impact libraries.
• Commitment to advancing efforts to secure grants and contracts for the libraries.
• Demonstrated history of transparent administrative style, showing flexibility in governance, and demonstrating the ability to earn the trust and confidence of faculty, students, staff, and administrators.
• Effective organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills.
• Ability to lead a broad and intensive fundraising effort and build community support for the libraries.
• Successful record of, and commitment to, affirmative action, equality of opportunity, and diversity with demonstrated respect and advocacy for faculty, students, and staff.
• Experience working in a student-centered environment, with direct knowledge of the needs of a diverse population of undergraduate and graduate students.
• Must be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of employment without assistance from the institution.

Preferred Qualifications
• Earned doctorate in library/information science or closely related field.
• Experience leading in a multi-campus or multi-site academic environment
• Demonstrated success in leading a diverse staff through change
• Five years of successful academic administrative experience at or above the department chair level (or commensurate experience).
• Demonstrated success in advancing efforts to secure grants and contracts for the libraries.
• Experience or demonstrated skills in leading a broad and intensive fundraising effort
• Record of increasing community support for the libraries.

Screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. The preferred position starting date is July 1, 2019. A complete application consists of a letter addressing the qualifications cited above; a curriculum vitae; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of at least three professional references. Other documentation may be requested. Only complete applications submitted electronically will be considered. Finalists will be required to submit to a background investigation.

Applications and nominations should be sent to:  

Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner  
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates  
6512 Painter Avenue  
Whittier, CA  90601  
Email: apsearch@storbeckpimentel.com  
Refer to code “GSU-Libraries” in subject line

More information about the institution is available through http://www.georgiasouthern.edu or https://library.georgiasouthern.edu/. Georgia Southern University seeks to recruit individuals who are committed to working in diverse academic and professional communities and who are committed to excellence in teaching,
scholarship, and professional service within the University and beyond. The names of applicants and nominees, vitae, and other non-evaluative information may be subject to public inspection under the Georgia Open Records Act. Georgia Southern University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity institution. Individuals who need reasonable accommodations under the ADA to participate in the search process should contact the Vice Provost.