

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

Veterinarians in Central University Administration

By Dr. Donald F. Smith

August 13, 2015

Cornell veterinary alumni and current campus community members congratulate Mike Kotlikoff for his recent appointment as university provost by President Elizabeth Garrett. Kotlikoff, a VMD from the University of Pennsylvania and PhD from UC, Davis, served as Cornell's veterinary college dean for eight years and, before that, as chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences beginning in 2000.



Michael Kotlikoff, Cornell Provost
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Though Kotlikoff is the first veterinarian to be appointed provost at Cornell, it is noteworthy for the strength and distinction of the profession that there have been other veterinarians who have achieved high offices in university administrations.

Several other veterinarians currently serve as university presidents or provost, including:

- Warwick Arden, provost and executive vice chancellor, North Carolina State University
- Timothy Boosinger, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Auburn University
- Joseph DePietro, president, University of Tennessee system
- Teresa Welch Fossum, vice president of research and strategic initiatives, Midwestern University

- Lisa Freeman, executive vice president and provost, Northern Illinois University

Preceding those listed above, many veterinarians have served in senior university administrations over the years. An incomplete list includes:

- Warick Bayley, president, Washington State University
- James Coffman, provost, Kansas State University
- Robert D. Phemister, acting president, Colorado State University
- Alastair Summerlee, president, the University of Guelph in Canada

Whether or not a list of veterinarians in senior university administration of distinguished universities is disproportionately large is for others to determine. Regardless, it serves the profession well to know that in our midst are those who have major roles in directing the broad academic future of higher education.

KEYWORDS:

Michael I. Kotlikoff
Cornell University
University administration

TOPIC:

University administration

LEADING QUESTION:

Do veterinarians ever achieve university presidency?

META-SUMMARY:

Noted veterinarians achieve positions in higher university administration.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.