

Session Name: University Management in the Time of COVID

Instructor Biography

Dr. Lynn Wells is a Canadian scholar, teacher and university leader with over fifteen years of experience in senior academic leadership positions. In 2020, Dr. Wells was appointed as Provost and Vice-President, Academic at Brock University. Prior to holding that role, she served as Associate Vice-President, Students and Teaching at MacEwan University in Edmonton and held a number of senior positions at the University of Regina, including Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Associate Vice-President, Academic. For seven years, Dr. Wells supported the work of national reconciliation with Indigenous people through her service as Vice-President, Academic and Special Advisor to the President at First Nations University of Canada. Dr. Wells is a respected scholar in her field of Contemporary British Fiction, having published two books and numerous articles. Her fields of scholarly interest include urban representations, literary ethics and surveillance studies. She has served on the Executive Committee of the International Association for Philosophy and Literature and as a Board member for the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Wells holds a Master's in English and a B.A. Honours (summa cum laude) in English and French Studies, along with a PhD in English from Western University.

Seminar Description

Since their foundation in 12th-century Europe, universities have always evolved to reflect the societies in which they exist. And while the COVID-19 pandemic has presented universities, including Brock, with unprecedented challenges, these offer opportunities for continued change. This seminar will argue that universities need to be nimble in responding to the changing environment created by the pandemic, seizing ways to redefine the ways in which they operate while preserving the critical values that have defined universities for centuries.

Topics Covered

- The historical evolution of the university, including its defining values.
- The challenges and opportunities posed by the pandemic, including the rapid shift to virtual delivery, the expanding role of technology, changes in student demand and in the competitive landscape, and new opportunities for collaboration in the higher education sector.

Learning Outcomes

Following the seminar, viewers will be able to:

- Articulate some of the key values of the academy
- Identify some of the challenges universities are facing as a result of the pandemic
- Identify some of the opportunities universities are offered as a result of the pandemic