

Leadership Profile



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

This leadership profile is intended to provide information and assist qualified individuals in assessing their interest in Chapman University and the position of Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer for Chapman University.



About Chapman University

Chapman University, located in the heart of Orange County, California, is an exciting and ever-evolving hub of science, technology, business, and the arts. The university embraces an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, learning, performance, scholarship, and research in its undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

Founded in 1861, Chapman serves nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students with a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Students can choose from over 100 areas of study within 11 colleges for a personalized education. Chapman is categorized by the Carnegie Classification as an R2 “high research activity” institution. Students at Chapman learn directly from distinguished world-class faculty including Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur fellows, published authors, and Academy Award winners. The university has produced a Rhodes Scholar, been named a top producer of Fulbright Scholars, and hosts a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society. Supported by an endowment exceeding \$1 billion, one of the fastest-growing in the country, Chapman continues to fulfill its mission of providing personalized education of distinction that prepares students for inquiring, ethical, and productive lives as global citizens.

To learn more, visit:
chapman.edu/about



Leadership



Matt Parlow has served as Chapman University's 14th president since September 2, 2025, and holds the Donald Bren Presidential Chair in Law. Over his 12 years at Chapman, Parlow has played a pivotal role in propelling the institution toward national prominence as both an administrator and a scholar. As Executive Vice President, Chief Advancement Officer (EVP/CAO), and Parker S. Kennedy Chair in Law, he drove transformational growth while leading the historic fundraising initiative *Inspire: The Campaign for Chapman*

University. This campaign seeks to raise \$500 million by 2028 and grow the university's endowment to \$2 billion by 2037. Under his leadership, Chapman surpassed \$400 million—well ahead of schedule—providing resources that strengthen academic excellence, support student success, and deepen community engagement.

An innovative leader with a strong sense of community, Parlow brings an ambitious vision for Chapman's future. Under his direction, the university is poised to reach new academic heights by fostering expansive interdisciplinary collaborations that push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation, while preparing students for success in a rapidly evolving workforce.

Deeply committed to the student experience, he will promote robust engagement between students, faculty, and the broader community, ensuring Chapman continues to provide the distinctive, hands-on learning opportunities that set the university apart. As the need for civil discourse grows

nationwide, Parlow is also dedicated to making Chapman a place where challenging conversations are embraced and free expression is protected. This commitment to free speech, academic excellence, and community is emblematic of Parlow's strong belief in the power of education as a force for good.

Before serving as EVP/CAO, Parlow was the Dean and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law at the Dale E. Fowler School of Law. As the school's second-longest-serving dean, he achieved financial stability, welcomed some of the strongest incoming classes in its history, and oversaw three consecutive years of record graduate employment. His leadership elevated the school's *U.S. News & World Report* ranking by more than 20 spots, while his fundraising established new professorships and expanded key curricular areas that foster innovation and student achievement.

Parlow's career in higher education also includes serving as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School, where he taught Property, Land Use, and Professional Sports Law (with Major League Baseball Commissioner Emeritus Bud Selig). He also taught in Chapman's Fowler School of Law from 2005 to 2008 and has twice been recognized as Professor of the Year, at Chapman and at Marquette.

Prior to his academic career, Parlow was an associate with the Los Angeles firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Parlow holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and a B.A., magna cum laude, in History from Loyola Marymount University.



Leadership



Michael Ibba was appointed executive vice president, provost, and chief academic officer of Chapman University in October 2025. He earned his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Imperial College London and completed his doctorate in microbial biochemistry at the University of Manchester. Following postdoctoral work in Switzerland at Novartis and ETH Zürich, and in the United States at Yale University, Dr. Ibba established his own research group at the University of Copenhagen before joining The Ohio State University in 2001. Over 19

years at Ohio State, he held key leadership roles, including chair of the department of microbiology, associate director of the Infectious Disease Institute, and co-director of an NIH-funded graduate training program.

In 2020, he came to Chapman University as dean of the Schmid College of Science and Technology, a position he held until 2025. An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Ibba has published more than 200 research articles, secured over \$15 million in extramural funding, and served as editor for leading scientific journals. His honors include the Distinguished Scholar Award at Ohio State and election as a fellow of both the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also chaired the National Science Foundation's Federal Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences and currently leads the American Society for Microbiology Committee on Graduate and Postdoctoral Education. As provost, Dr. Ibba brings a distinguished record of research, teaching, and leadership, guiding Chapman's academic mission with a focus on interdisciplinary excellence, innovation, and student success.



Leadership



Jessica Berger serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer at Chapman University, where she oversees all fundraising and development, alumni relations, and the university's \$500 million Inspire comprehensive campaign, among other duties.

Jessica joined Chapman from California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM), where she was Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation. In her role, she led a talented team of professionals in the advancement division

collectively focused on building a culture of philanthropy and developing meaningful relationships campus-wide and across the nation. She partnered closely with university

leadership, board directors, donors, and community members to achieve record-breaking philanthropic results, including preparing the launch of CSUSM's largest-ever comprehensive campaign totaling \$200 million.

Jessica came to CSUSM from Harvey Mudd College, where she served as Assistant Vice President for Development and oversaw all development-related activity in the Office of College Advancement. Prior to HMC, Jessica oversaw the annual giving program at Polytechnic School and managed alumni, parent and trustee volunteer fundraising activity, and donor-related events during a major comprehensive campaign.

Jessica received a B.A. in Psychology from Wittenberg University and a M.S.W. from Cleveland State University.



Leadership



A seasoned higher education leader with a background in administration, fundraising, and the law, **Amy Rogan-Mehta** is an Executive Vice President and the Chief of Staff at Chapman University. In her role, Amy serves as a chief adviser to the President and oversees a broad portfolio of units that contribute to Chapman's strategic direction, student experience, and external visibility. In addition, Amy facilitates collaboration and alignment across Chapman's schools and departments to achieve institutional vision and goals; helps to lead board relations with the Board of

Trustees, Board of Governors, and the President's Cabinet; and serves as a liaison to various committees of the Board of Trustees.

Throughout her career, Amy has led her teams to unprecedented success. As Senior Vice President of University

Advancement at Chapman, she helped the division reach new heights financially and programmatically and played an instrumental role in Chapman's raising more than \$400 million toward its \$500 million comprehensive campaign goal.

Before joining University Advancement, Amy served as Associate Dean for Administration at Chapman's Dale E. Fowler School of Law, where she supervised the entire administration, including the areas of career services, operations, admissions, marketing, events, and student affairs. Prior to joining Chapman, Amy served as Associate Dean for Student Development at Marquette University Law School.

Amy holds a Bachelor of Science in social work, cum laude, from Saint Catherine University, a Master of Science in social work from Columbia University, and a J.D. from Marquette University Law School, where she graduated first in her class.





The Position

The Chapman University Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer (EVP/COO), a senior leadership position reporting to President Matt Parlow, is responsible for directing daily administrative and business operations and bringing innovation, vision, and strategy to achieve the institution's strategic goals. In collaboration with the president, the EVP/COO provides oversight of campus infrastructure, financial performance, capital projects, instructional technology, safety and emergency preparedness, and human resources.

At present, the EVP/COO has these direct reports: Vice President for Finance and Budget; Chief Investment Officer; Vice President for Finance/Controller; Vice President of Campus Planning and Design; Vice President for Facilities; Vice President of Event Operations; Chief Human Resources Officer; Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Chief Compliance Officer; Vice President for Enterprise Risk and Safety; and Contract Department Heads for Follett and Sodexo. The EVP/COO will be responsible for operations on both the Orange and Rinker (Irvine) campuses of Chapman University.

In time, it is anticipated that a seasoned EVP/COO will examine all aspects of the operation to suggest possibilities to the president for optimizing new technologies and best practices. Moreover, the EVP/COO will review the unit's organizational structure and, should the need arise, make suggestions for greater effectiveness.

The EVP/COO will serve as a member of the executive leadership team and the University's senior staff (president's cabinet). Although the EVP/COO will report directly to the president, the role is expected to collaborate effectively with the executive team and other stakeholders, as well as make needed presentations to such bodies as the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, President's Cabinet, and Faculty Senate. In addition, the EVP/COO supports the work of various Trustee committees, such as Finance, Real Estate, Audit, and Investments.

Chapman University is eager to find an individual who can move expeditiously, bring shape to vision, and provide necessary information and analysis to senior leadership in a timely fashion to ensure institutional momentum.





Key Responsibilities & Qualifications

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Translating the institution's vision into operational plans, managing organizational change, and aligning resources with strategic goals.
- **Operational Management:** Overseeing non-academic units, including facilities management, campus planning, human resources, information technology, security, and outsourced contract management, among others.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Ensuring fiscal responsibility, budgetary control, and long-term financial resilience.
- **Administrative Efficiency:** Improving organizational processes, policies, and performance to enhance service quality and effectiveness.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** Collaborating with faculty, staff, and external partners to support institutional success.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Successful candidates in this role will bring many of the following experiences and characteristics

- Seasoned leadership with experience motivating and managing multiple teams as a COO in a complex higher education environment or equivalent (e.g., health care, non-profit) to perform at a high level and support and achieve institutional strategic goals; ability to delegate, monitor, and assess while maintaining high quality standards; Demonstrated ability to build and maintain credibility with teams and stakeholders.
- Strong financial acumen and proven experience with resource management, oversight of investment function, experience with budgetary planning and oversight, complex project management, and current operational improvement best practices.
- Experience with strategic plan development, implementation, and evaluation.
- Proven skills in identifying and assessing risks appropriately, in consultation with leadership, and taking the identified risks into consideration in operational problem-solving and improvements.





Key Responsibilities & Qualifications

QUALIFICATIONS CONTINUED:

- In addition to the financial experience mentioned above, strong understanding of the other relevant functional areas in a higher education or similarly complex setting, such as campus planning and design; facilities; human resources; information services and technology; public safety and risk management; compliance; event operations; and auxiliary vendor relationships.
- Exceptional communication, collaboration, and management skills.
- Strong problem-solving and decision-making capabilities, with a focus on achieving goals.
- Excellent discernment, judgment, integrity, and prioritization.
- Experience in the state of California.
- Proven experience in learning new institutional cultures effectively and ability to speak to Chapman's culture based on available information.
- Experience leveraging technology to advance institutional goals through improved processes and capabilities.
- A collaborative growth mindset with an understanding of how to think and dream big when appropriate and how to effectively manage ideas that are inconsistent with the university's vision, strategy, or interests when necessary.
- Baccalaureate degree required; MBA preferred.





Nominations & Applications

For full consideration, application materials should be submitted through the AGB Search portal system accessible [via this link](#) by April 17, 2026. Please direct any questions regarding the application process to ChapmanCOO@agbsearch.com. Nominations and expressions of interest are encouraged and should be directed to ChapmanCOO@agbsearch.com or to the AGB search consultants listed below. All candidate names will remain confidential until finalists are identified during the latter stages of the search.

The estimated start date is July 1, 2026 (negotiable), and the anticipated salary range is \$450,000–\$600,000 per year.

Should you wish to have a confidential conversation about this opportunity, please contact the AGB search consultants listed below by email.

Margaret (Peggy) Plympton, Ed.D.
Principal

margaret.plympton@agbsearch.com

Sally Mason, Ph.D.
Senior Executive Search Consultant

sally.mason@agbsearch.com

Garry Owens, Ph.D.
Senior Executive Search Consultant

garry.owens@agbsearch.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Chapman University is an equal opportunity employer that provides equal employment opportunities to all individuals, regardless of their protected characteristics. All qualified applicants and employees are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, military and veteran status, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Chapman University. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Chapman University would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

