

Fairleigh Dickinson University Vice President for Facilities



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**



The Search

Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) invites applications and nominations for the position of Vice President for Facilities (VPF). The largest private university in New Jersey, FDU is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian, multicampus institution. The University offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including doctoral programs in pharmacy, nursing practice, clinical psychology and school psychology; and an AACSB-accredited business school. Degree programs are offered on two New Jersey campuses and at two FDU locations outside the U.S.: Wroxton College, in Oxfordshire, England, and the Vancouver Campus, in British Columbia, Canada.

The Role

The VPF reports to the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Frank Barra. The VPF is responsible for the management of University real estate in the United States, along with facilities operations, leads contract development, management and negotiation for facilities, space planning, capital planning and improvements. Facilities operations budget and finance management are critical, as well as regulatory compliance and oversight.

Leadership Opportunities for the Vice President for Facilities

Support the University's exploration of potential uses for prime real estate

The University is actively pursuing an RFP for all real estate, having already done an RFEI to developers, to consider best uses for the two New Jersey campuses, 180 acres in Florham Park and Madison, and 90 acres near the George Washington Bridge in Teaneck and Hackensack. Formal proposal requests will be solicited this fall. The VPF would take a leadership role in this evaluation process, coordinating the appropriate involvement of campus leadership and the gathering of all relevant information for the resulting proposals. The strategic priority is to connect opportunities for redevelopment and public/private partnerships with a re-imagining of the New Jersey campuses.

Provide leadership to the outsourced facilities organization

The University outsourced the facilities operations to Aramark two years ago, a process which has improved the institution's ability to manage the U.S.-based campuses, but presents challenges in managing the relationship with an outsourced vendor. There is the opportunity to consider the addition of an AVP to work in support of the VP's priorities, after the VP has had the chance to fully evaluate the current operations, with recommendations for potential build out and/or role reconfigurations.

Ensure that the University's physical assets are aligned with the new institutional direction

As the University fully implements the institutional pivot to “**HealthPath Forward**,” enhancing and building on the current health care and science offerings, connecting the technology and physical assets to this new direction while exploring other transformations will all be essential. As an example, FDU is exploring intergenerational living/learning communities, and the individual in this position will play a critical leadership role in keeping this transformation centered, while also ensuring ongoing operations for the existing programs. It is expected that the new VP will facilitate conversations with faculty, staff and students about how best to redesign



buildings to optimize the academic and research mission and the new “HealthPath Forward” strategy. As with so many campuses, there is a deferred maintenance burden to be addressed, generating the needed funding through innovative partnerships around the real estate assets.

Support for relationships with communities

The VPF will ensure continuing strong relationships with the communities that surround the two New Jersey campuses, in order to ensure that changing needs and uses are consistent with the larger communities’ priorities and supported by local governmental officials. The successful candidate needs to be able to build trust and cultivate a collaborative culture with internal University stakeholders (i.e. senior leadership, faculty, staff, students, Board), along with external stakeholders (i.e., local government officials, state leadership).

Initiate a campus master-planning process for the two campuses

To ensure that the evolving plans are consistent with the academic and programmatic needs of the University, the VPF will have the opportunity to launch a comprehensive campus space-planning process, building on the detailed assessment that Aramark has performed over the last two years, the Facilities Condition Assessment that is in process, and taking into account the proposals that are received from the RFP process. Having the campus master plan socialized and approved, with implementation begun, will be a key success metric in the first 18 months to 3 years.

About Fairleigh Dickinson University

The University, founded in 1942, achieved four-year status in 1948 and approval as a university in 1956. The University’s 12,000+ full- and part-time students pursue quality career-oriented programs on schedules tailored to their needs — days, evenings and weekends.

Fairleigh Dickinson is a nationally and globally recognized private university dedicated to academic excellence, innovation and career-focused education. With campuses in New Jersey and around the world, FDU offers a diverse range of programs designed to prepare students for success in their professions and to empower them to make meaningful contributions to society.

In 2023, FDU launched **FDU Health**, a bold initiative to unify and expand its health science and health-related programs. FDU Health fosters innovation in teaching, research and community engagement to promote health and wellness across all campuses and surrounding communities.

In 2025, the University introduced **FDU HealthPath Forward**, a forward-thinking initiative that builds on this momentum, advancing partnerships, interdisciplinary collaboration and cutting-edge healthcare delivery models to strengthen well-being on campus and beyond.

The Florham Campus in suburban Madison offers a classical undergraduate and graduate experience in a small college setting. FDU Florham is primarily a residential campus, supported by a strong student life program. It boasts active fraternities and sororities, diverse student activities and dynamic Division III and intramural athletics programs. Resident students are joined in class by undergraduate commuters and by adult, graduate and certificate students, utilizing first-class educational resources either retrofitted into the campus’ distinctive and appealing original buildings or newly built especially in the most recent decades.



FDU's Metropolitan Campus offers a strong career focus and is home to many of FDU's business, professional, science and health care programs. It's a celebration of diversity, too, attracting students from 63 countries. Running through the heart of campus is the Hackensack River. Quaint homes, shops, ethnic restaurants and parks are nearby, as well as shopping malls, community groups and office and professional buildings, where many of our resident and commuter students alike find part-time jobs. The campus' proximity to New York City is a key feature, where students can study Broadway, Wall Street and the United Nations up close and in person!

Fairleigh Dickinson University offers a competitive employee benefits package designed to support the health, financial security and work life balance of our team, including medical, dental, retirement plan with employer match, tuition benefits, paid time off and additional wellness perks.

Mission Statement

Fairleigh Dickinson University is a center of academic excellence dedicated to the preparation of world citizens through global education. The University strives to provide students with the multidisciplinary, intercultural and ethical understandings necessary to participate, lead and prosper in the global marketplace of ideas, commerce and culture.

About Senior Vice President Frank Barra

Frank N. Barra assumed the role of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in February 2024. He previously served as Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Division I Athletics Administration, bringing a wealth of experience and a proven track record of excellence to his position since joining the University in September 2017. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Accountancy, Barra is a certified public accountant, having previously served FDU as one of his audit clients during his tenure at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The VP for Facilities Position

Key Responsibilities:

The VPF supervises 2 exempt and 2 nonexempt employees, and more than 100 contractors/service personnel. The VPF leads and oversees the following:

- Supports senior University leadership with the assessment and management of real estate, including acquisitions, dispositions, takings, leases and changes of use. Represents the University to outside agencies.
- Administers, supervises and directs activities of assigned exempt and non-exempt staff including decisions to hire, terminate and/or modify personnel status.
- Plans and oversees the facilities operations on the two New Jersey campuses of Fairleigh Dickinson, with a total operating budget of more than \$21 million, and capital budget of more than \$11 million annually.
- Leads contract development and negotiations for facilities operations. Provides updated budget to actual forecasts quarterly and as needed. Responsible for oversight and management of outsourced facilities contracted vendor. Responsible for various regulatory compliance and oversight.



- Proposes updates to the 5-year capital plan at least annually, and as approved, plans for implementation and execution of the plan. Oversees implementation of the plan directly and through subordinates and/or consultants. Also responsible for leading the contract development and negotiations for capital projects.
- Plans and controls Facilities budgets, including internal compensation, operating and capital funds, as well as vendor-required or other funded improvements.
- Within available resources, provides targeted support for University facilities outside New Jersey.

Knowledge/Skills/Abilities

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Substantial experience in the management of facilities, preferably in higher education.
- A bachelor's degree in business, architecture, engineering or closely related discipline required. PE, MBA or MEd preferred.
- Demonstrated strong abilities in leadership and fiscal oversight.
- Demonstrated ability to plan and control complex, significant budgets, including both operating and capital.
- Significant related experience with real-estate acquisition, disposition, leasing, facilities contract management, etc.
- Strong oral and written communication skills with the ability to communicate effectively with faculty, staff, students and trustees.
- Knowledge of facilities-related regulatory requirements and demonstrated ability to comply strongly preferred.
- Ability to understand, conform and analyze data as well as make data-driven recommendations.
- Valid driver's license and access to a vehicle is preferred.

Procedure for Applying

The Search Committee is currently accepting and reviewing applications until the position is filled. The deadline for submission for best consideration is Friday, **October 3, 2025.**

Candidates Should Provide:

- Letter of interest stating how the candidate's experiences and qualifications connect with the characteristics and priorities expressed in the position profile.
- Résumé or curriculum vitae.
- Five professional references with emails, telephone numbers and a description of the candidate's professional relationship with each reference listed (references will not be contacted without prior written authorization from the applicant).



All application materials should be submitted electronically in PDF format through the AGB Search portal system at: Fairleigh Dickinson University Vice President for Facilities [link: bit.ly/4IP14V8]. Should you have any questions or encounter any difficulties with the application process, please contact: FDUVPF@agbsearch.com.

The search is being assisted by the following professionals from AGB Search:

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Advancing Higher Education Leadership

EEO Statement

Fairleigh Dickinson University strongly supports the principles of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action in all its employment policies and practices, and requires that all these practices be administered without regard to race, color, citizenship status, disability, veteran status, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, handicap, gender, sex, sexual preference or marital status.