

University Vice Presidents Network



Purpose

The purpose of the University Vice Presidents Network is:

1

To provide a regular forum for university vice presidents across all VP-level portfolios to meet for peer-to-peer exchange relevant to their roles in managing expansive portfolios in complex institutions.

2

To stimulate lively discussions, fed by topnotch research and engaging international speakers, on pressing issues facing higher education institutions.

3

To share knowledge pertaining to strategic and organizational challenges faced by universities in today's volatile operational landscape.

4

To explore opportunities for learning, collaboration, and shared resolution of sectoral challenges — and to inspire and formulate viable leadership initiatives.

Who Should Participate

The Network convenes VP-level executives from member universities.

Meeting Schedules and Locations

Meetings are convened three times a year, twice in Canada and once at an international location. Domestic meetings are scheduled on the first Thursday and Friday in November and February, and the annual site visit is normally scheduled during the first week of April.

Costs

The activities of the network are funded through annual membership fees of **\$20,000**. Members are asked to commit to a minimum three-year engagement period, contingent on satisfaction with value.

Member universities are invited to host meetings, with all arrangements organized by Higher Education Strategy Associates.

Participants cover transportation and hotel costs at negotiated rates.

A Unique High-Level Forum

The network **enables university executives to get away from the day-to-day grind** of their roles and into discussions on big issues. This is a place where the urgent does not displace the important.

Participants uncover and **understand entrenched and emerging challenges** common to many universities. They are encouraged to **consider institutional and collective objectives** and explore existing or alternative means to achieve them — by understanding terrain, weighing options, learning from peers, and sharing experience.

University vice-presidents operate in **unique and challenging governance and administrative environments**. Yet, vice presidents are rarely trained for their roles as executive administrators of challenging portfolios. Each meeting, regardless of theme, involves valuable learning through peer-to-peer exchange and insights from leading higher education experts.

Annual international site visits look at the **best examples of university practice from all over the world**.

Full agendas and individual sessions range widely, emphasizing topics that call on leaders to **deploy the collective strengths of vice presidents operating in teams** across *all* senior portfolios.

Examples of Meeting Themes

- ➔ Agendas focus on the role of universities as partners with governments, businesses, and communities in achieving strategic economic, industry or societal objectives. Universities rank high among any country's top national, regional, and local assets. This network presents opportunities to leverage collaborative strategic impact.
- ➔ Meetings take up the latest strategic questions and enduring challenges. How will AI change universities? What strategies and structures enable interdisciplinary programs and learning? When does risk management overtake the pursuit of excellence? How can universities strike a balance between autonomy and accountability?
- ➔ On pressing issues such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and global migration, the network facilitates engagement between university leaders, experts, stakeholders, and key partners. Participating institutions help shape these engagements.