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### From Surviving to Thriving: Top Tips to Help Newer Chairs


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**Primary Presenter Information:**

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**Biographical Sketch:** Dr. Ethan Krase is Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Winona State University in Winona, MN. He has served as chair for nine years and has also previously directed his university's Writing Center. Dr. Krase's teaching interests center on applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, and rhetoric and composition. He is the co-author of *Theory and Practice for Writing Tutors* as well as articles in *Across the Disciplines*, *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *Journal of Teaching Writing*, and *The WAC Journal*. Dr. Krase has presented at ACC and other chair-training venues on multiple occasions.

**Additional Presenter Information:**

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**Biographical Sketch:** Dr. Gian Pagnucci is Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has served as chair for nine years and also served as Director of Graduate Studies in Composition and TESOL. Dr. Pagnucci's teaching specialties are technical writing, composition, technology-based pedagogy, and comic books. Dr. Pagnucci is co-author of *Enter the Superheroes: American Values, Culture, and the Canon of Superhero Literature* from Scarecrow Press. His past books include *Living the Narrative Life: Stories as a Tool for Meaning Making* and *Re-Mapping Narrative: Technology's Impact on the Way We Write*. Dr. Pagnucci has presented at ACC and other chair-training venues on multiple occasions.

### **Session Description:**

One of the chief difficulties for newer department chairs is that there is often little formal training for the job. As a result, many chairs spend their first few years learning by trial and error, which is often a sure recipe for chair burnout. Exacerbating the trial-and-error approach, newer chairs often find much of their time and energy gets consumed by small-scale, daily issues. When this happens, chairs are less able to become the forward-thinking academic leaders their departments need them to be.

As chairs ourselves, we come to ACC looking practical ideas for making our work more efficient, less mysterious, and ultimately more doable. The strategies discussed in this presentation aim to equip chairs with concrete, easily usable methods for operating their departments on a day-to-day basis. Our hope is to help chairs learn to spend less time and energy on the common problems we cover in this session so that they can focus on the larger, more complicated, more impactful issues of their home departments.

### **Short session description (in case you need something more compact)**

This session shares concrete strategies for helping department chairs navigate common problems more effectively and efficiently. With attention to managing email, handling complaints, constructing schedules, building relationships, and working with upper administration, the presenters offer practical tips to help newer chairs succeed.