

Ray Ball, Ph.D., Interim Vice Provost, Student Success, and Dean, University Honors College

Ray Ball, Ph.D., is UAA interim vice provost for Student Success and dean of the University Honors College, having served in the role since January 2024. As interim vice provost, Ball oversees the Office of Student Success, which is home to Academic Advising, the Learning Commons, Navigate360, and other student success initiatives, such as textbook affordability and peer mentoring. She collaborates closely with her team as well as faculty and other UAA staff to put students first. Ball also oversees the Honors College, leading its strategic planning and direction, and collaborating with faculty and staff to ensure that Honors College students at UAA receive high-impact curricular, co-curricular, and experiential learning in four different tracks: community engagement, global & multicultural studies, leadership, and research & creative activity.

Before her current appointment, Ball was a professor of history. Since arriving at UAA in 2012, she has held numerous leadership roles, including chairing the Research & Creative Activity Faculty Senate Committee, co-chairing the Academic Computing, Distance Learning, Instructional Technology, and eLearning Faculty Senate Committee, serving as Faculty Liaison for Major Scholarships, and serving on the executive councils of the Sixteenth Century Society and the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies. She has also been the secretary of the board of the Alaska Humanities Forum and chaired its Program Committee.

Ball holds a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is the author of five books and numerous essays, poems, reviews, and peer-reviewed journal articles, including one co-authored with three UAA students. Ball has received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity. She has been the recipient of a Fulbright Research Award to Spain, an NEH Summer Institute, and a Spanish Ministry of Culture Grant.