

Wichita State University.

Introduction: This research focused on managerial roles PA department chairs used and perceived as important as compared to Henry Mintzberg's business model of managerial roles. Mintzberg's model describes what managers do and is comprised of 10 managerial roles, grouped in three categories. Knowing the managerial nature of individuals in PA chair positions may be a significant resource when assisting others in the understanding of this position. **Methods:** Quantitative survey methods measured PA department chair administrative activities compared to Mintzberg's model. In this regard, PA department chairs (n=77) and PA faculty (n=94) reported their perceptions on PA chair administrative roles and importance as defined by Mintzberg. To ascertain the reliability of scales as compared to Mintzberg's model, the survey items comprising the constructs of Mintzberg's managerial role model were subject to factor analysis for each group using principal component analysis followed by varimax rotation for factor extraction. Cronbach's coefficient alpha was computed for each factor. Results: Results indicated that three factors accounted for 68.8% of the variance for chairs and 60.0% for faculty (alpha values for chairs = .798 [factor 1], .830 [factor 2], .661 [factor 3]; faculty = .796 [factor 1], .195 [factor 3]). These factors encompassed the same constructs as identified by Mintzberg for chairs and to a lesser degree for faculty. **Discussion:** For chairs, items in factor one completely support all of Mintzberg's constructs of the decisional role category. Factor two supports two of the three constructs in the informational category. Reasons for this slight discrepancy may be that the role of "liaison" is viewed by the subjects as more informational in nature, rather than interpersonal as postulated by Mintzberg. Similarly, factor three supports two of three constructs in the interpersonal category. The "spokesperson" role may be viewed by chair subjects as more interpersonal in nature. In regard to factor analysis for the faculty sample, faculty appeared to consider multiple roles in overlapping categories. This analysis supports the contention that faculty are farther removed from the "job" of the chair and therefore are less correct in their interpretation of what their chair does. Overall, it appeared that chairs were in agreement with how the managerial role constructs followed the Mintzberg managerial role model in terms of their work activities. Furthermore, from a PA chair viewpoint, the constructs of a well tested business model appeared to be applicable in an academic setting and may be a significant resource when assisting others in the understanding of this position.