



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DEAN'S ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
2023-2024





Robert (RJ) Hinde

Robert (RJ) Hinde is the Interim Executive Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor of chemistry in the college. He joined the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1994, after receiving his PhD in chemistry in 1992 from the University of Chicago and pursuing postdoctoral work at Cornell University as a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow. He began his term as Interim Executive Dean on July 1, 2023.

Hinde served as the college's associate dean for academic programs from 2011 to 2015, and as the university's vice provost for academic affairs from 2015 to 2022. In these positions, he worked closely with faculty and department heads to create new academic programs, revise the university's general education curriculum (Volunteer Core), and develop a data-driven approach to allocating resources to serve the instructional needs of the university's growing undergraduate student body. In 2020, Hinde oversaw the university's academic recovery efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent transition to temporary emergency remote learning; following the pandemic, UT's provost charged him with building institutional capacity in the university's division of Online Learning and Academic Programs (OLAP). Between fall 2020 and fall 2022, Hinde grew OLAP from three to 23 staff members and developed a strategic plan for expanding UT's online academic programs. In 2023, OLAP was absorbed by the university's newly-created Digital Learning unit.

Hinde has served on committees and task forces of the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry, and regularly reviews grant proposals for the National Science Foundation and NASA. His research focuses on understanding the structural and spectroscopic properties of low-temperature condensed phases of hydrogen and helium, systems where quantum mechanical effects play a dominant role. He was awarded a Summer Faculty Fellowship by the U.S. Air Force to investigate high-energy-density materials that might serve as next-generation rocket propellants and spent several summers working with USAF scientists at Edwards Air Force Base. During his UT career, he has supervised more than a dozen graduate students and nearly 20 undergraduate research assistants.



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