

ALISSA MAHAR

Results-driven executive leader with a proven ability to build strong relationships across all organizational levels to drive change and deliver high-quality outcomes. A communicative leader focused on employee development, diversity, equity and inclusion, and fostering a positive work environment. Skilled problem-solver who leverages collaboration, resourcefulness, and strategic insight to achieve goals. Known for guiding teams through change with diplomacy, trust, and respect, while promoting a culture of continuous improvement.

CFO/Vice President, Business & Finance *Seattle Pacific University, current role*

Oversight of 126 FTE in Finance, Budgeting, Treasury/Banking, Real Estate, Capital Projects, Safety & Security (police), Information Technology, Human Resources, Facilities, Business Development & Partnerships, Auxiliary (housing/food/bookstore) Operations, Contracts & Legal, Conference/Event Services, and Seattle Pacific Foundation investing (\$150M).

- Developed **\$80M** operating budget, five-year strategic financial forecast, financial goals and KPIs to track success, aligning with institutional priorities, sustainability focus, and educational outcomes.
- Presented financial insights to President/CEO and Board of Trustees, translating complex data into clear recommendations for strategic decision-making and academic outcomes alignment.
- Advanced five-year capital improvement plan and **\$90M** real estate strategy, including capital construction, property sale/acquisition, feasibility studies, and academic space utilization studies.
- Collaborated on facility planning and sustainability initiatives with academic and administrative units.
- Influenced and built relationships across executive leadership, departments, and external partners to drive financial success, organizational growth, and achievement of the academic mission of SPU.
- Led comprehensive restructuring/reorganization of staff functional areas.
- Drove process improvement that streamlined budgeting, reporting, and financial controls, resulting in 13% increased efficiency and improved financial transparency.
- Executive sponsor supporting implementation of Workday Finance and Human Capital Management, improving financial data accuracy, transparency and operational efficiency across the university.
- Oversaw financial reporting and benchmarking, ensuring compliance with institutional guidelines and facilitating accurate, timely decision-making.
- Established public private partnerships through leased space, operational agreements, and events.
- Refined investment portfolio and strategy to align with cash forecast.
- Streamlined merchant services and payment card processing.
- Partnered with Amazon and Sodexo to establish autonomous grab-n-go university market.
- Led university in process to identify and implement \$14M in reductions.
- Co-led revenue generation task force to establish five-year \$31M revenue development plan.

CFO/Associate Vice President, Finance, Strategy & Business Operations *University of Washington Information Technology, 2022 - 2024*

Oversight of 85 FTE in Finance, Business Operations, Strategic Planning, Human Resources (People & Culture), Facilities, Capital Projects, Organizational Development, Communications & Engagement, Enterprise Project/Portfolio Management, Service Portfolio Management, Workday Coordination Services.

- Led a cross-functional team to align financial operations with institutional goals, fostering collaboration across departments (medicine, academic, IT).
- Led financial operations and coordinated financial investments in partnership with Executive Leadership Team, enabling prioritization and alignment with strategic institutional academic goals.
- Demonstrated leadership in cross-functional collaboration in a matrixed organizational structure, working with both direct and indirect reports.
- Financial oversight of **\$165M** operating budget with complex funding streams; 600 FTE in UW-IT.
- Managed UW enterprise Microsoft relationship to enable streamlined faculty and student efforts.
- Comprehensive funding methodology review through extensive engagement efforts across UW.
- Participated in Activity Based Budgeting steering committee with UW Senior Vice President.
- Financial strategic planning to support university research needs for high-capacity computing.

- Technology transformation leadership through Workday Finance implementation within UW-IT.
- Enterprise PMO creation to support the University of Washington.
- \$3.7M (13% increase) in technology recharge fee through collaboration and financial transparency.
- Increased budget by \$6.3M for enterprise risk management and cybersecurity budget advocacy.
- Led UW-IT organizational restructure initiative to best serve the University academic community.
- Partnered with University leaders to evolve IT governance structure and engagement framework.
- Enhanced partner relationship management via comprehensive engagement and listening strategy.
- Developed robust communications, engagement, and brand strategy.
- Collaborated on the development of a leadership development strategy to grow mid to senior leaders.
- Implemented partner change management, and business relationship management capabilities.

CFO/Vice President Finance & Operations, Clackamas Community College, 2016 - 2022

Oversight of 90 FTE in Finance & Business Office, Information Technology, People & Culture, Facilities/Grounds, Campus Services & Capital Projects, Bond Campaigns, Real Estate, Community Partnerships, College Safety, Emergency Management, and Operational Resiliency.

- Development, execution and monitoring of **\$300M** budget with complex funding streams: property taxes, community college support fund, tuition, grants, and enterprise revenues.
- Oversaw **\$95M** capital bond program; with \$37M leveraged match from the State of Oregon.
- Developed budget equity lens requirement for budget submittals.
- Improved technology and data governance processes to streamline customer experience.
- Developed technology strategic road map related to enterprise applications and cybersecurity.
- Implemented hybrid meeting room technology, enhanced chatbot and cybersecurity protocols.
- Improved bond rating which resulted in \$8M bond premium during capital bond issuance.
- Established the Innovation Team and dedicated funding for new revenue generation ideas.
- Partnered with Clackamas County to provide career technical education scholarships to students.
- Increased use of MWESB and veteran owned businesses to 29% during bond construction program.
- Led Clackamas County Business Alliance & Clackamas County Economic Development Commission.
- Participated in regional economic strategies through Greater Portland Inc.
- Human resources process/policy/procedure changes, alignment of budget with equity initiatives.
- Business community and public agency engagement/partnership development.
- Provided executive-level vision and strategy to ensure continuous quality improvement.
- Oversaw contracting, legal reviews, risk management, real estate transactions, land leases, building leases.
- Lead the Labor-Management Committee and served as lead negotiator for collective bargaining.
- Legislative Advocacy Team involvement at the State level.
- Participated in DEI Committee and related initiatives in areas of oversight.

CFO, Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), 2012 – 2016

Oversight of 80 FTE in Budget, Finance & Accounting, Strategy & Partnerships, Asset Management, Human Resources, Employee Services, Capital Financing, Organizational Development, Administrative Services, Information Technology, GIS Services, Legislative and Resource Development.

- Development, execution and monitoring of **\$430M** operating budget.
- Developed and implemented complex debt financing strategies to advance large-scale projects such as \$86.5M - Sellwood Bridge, \$39M - Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail, \$20M - LED Street Lights.
- Provided leadership representation on Information Technology governance groups.
- Participated in oversight committee for implementation of SAP enterprise application.
- Developed strategic roadmap in alignment with broader city strategic plan.
- Oversaw development of Annual Performance Report, website performance dashboard (Tableau).
- Developed five-year **\$150M** CIP with linkage to Transportation System Plan.
- Developed comprehensive asset management plan.
- Advance economic development efforts via parking garages and street level commercial spaces, as

well as through development services, tax credit programs, permitting and policy decisions.

- Oversaw 18-month community engagement process to explore funding alternatives.
- Served on 30+ member Utility Coordination Committee to streamline activities in the right-of-way.
- Provided media relations on large complex projects.
- Applied the equity lens to all areas of oversight and participated in DEI Committee.
- Lead the Labor-Management Committee with multiple bargaining units.

CFO, Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), 2008 - 2012

Oversight of 30 FTE in Information Technology, Business Analysis & Data; Budget, Finance & Accounting; People & Culture; Audits & Compliance; Asset Management & Loan Servicing; Housing Investment; Public/Private Partnerships; and Administrative Services.

- Developed, executed and monitored **\$200M** operating budget.
- Managed \$327M loan portfolio; carry out regulatory agreements and compliance monitoring.
- Participated in Housing Investment Committee to vet multi-million-dollar major capital projects through the equity lens of 30% for affordable housing.
- Established Portfolio Management initiative to analyze portfolio health.
- Executive level collaboration with regional partners to deliver broad spectrum of wrap-around services.

Adjunct Faculty, Advanced Fiscal Administration, Western and Eastern Oregon State University, 10+ years

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS/MEMBERSHIPS

2024 – Current, Board Vice Chair, Seattle Pacific Foundation

2016 – Blue Ribbon Committee, Beavercreek Employment Area

2024 – Current, Board Member, College Liability Insurance Company

2018 – 2022 Housing Advisory Board Member, Clackamas County

2023-2024, Member, University of Washington Activity Based Budgeting Steering Committee

2018 – 2022 Greater Portland Inc Ambassador Program (Co-Chair)

2023 – 2024, Board Member, TXPEG for CIOs

2016 – 2022, 1st Vice President Clackamas County Business Alliance

2018 – 2022, Chair/President Economic Development Commission, Clackamas County

Government Finance Officers Assn. (GFOA)

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATES

- MBA • Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
- BA Business Administration • Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
- Lean Six Sigma Leadership Certificate
- Project Management Professional (PMP) Certificate
- ITIL Certificate
- Business Relationship Management (BRM) Certificate
- Certified Government Financial Manager