

Mr. James D. Barbret

Associate Vice President for Finance

Wayne State University

Mr. Barbret has over 30 years of experience in the management of the financial and research enterprises in an academic environment. Having an undergraduate degree in accounting, he has expanded his role in the research enterprise to encompass the overall program management as well as the development of information systems to support the administrative requirements.

At Wayne State University, Mr. Barbret was brought in to lead the restructuring of the research management enterprise, combining offices previously under the direction of the Vice President for Finance, the Vice President for Research and the Dean of the School of Medicine. He was responsible for the development of the new organization, from defining the organizational model to defining the roles and responsibilities to recruitment and training of the management staff. This model was somewhat unique in that it integrated the traditional administrative functions with the financial responsibilities.

In 2011, Mr. Barbret was asked to assume the role of University Controller. In this capacity, he has all of the financial operations of the University within his purview. Given his experiences in organizational development, he was asked to restructure the organization to better serve the University community as well as gain efficiencies and cost savings. The unit embarked on a 3-year plan to re-organize and implement new technologies to meet these goals.

Prior to joining Wayne State University in 2001, Mr. Barbret worked at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Minnesota and Duke University where he was engaged as a the project leader for a number of information technology and business re-engineering initiatives.