In Memoriam: Keith G. Provan

University Communications
February 2014

Keith G. Provan, McClelland Professor of Management in the University of Arizona’s Eller College of Management, died on Sunday after a struggle with brain cancer.

Provan has been a member of the UA faculty since 1995. Prior to coming to the UA, he was a faculty member at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Vanderbilt University and the University of Kentucky.

At the UA, he held appointments in the Department of Management and Organizations [1] in the Eller College of Management [2], in the School of Government and Public Policy [3] and in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health [4]. Since 2007 he was also a senior research fellow at Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

Provan's colleagues knew him as a gifted and dedicated organizational theorist and public management scholar. His research focused on inter-organizational and network relationships, including network structure, evolution, governance and effectiveness, especially in the domain of health, mental health and human services.

"Keith Provan was a scholar of the first order who was able to cross disciplinary lines and make seminal contributions to organization theory, public management, and health care," said Brint Milward, director of the UA School of Government and Public Policy.

During his long and productive career, Provan published more than 70 academic journal articles and scholarly book chapters both in management journals such as Administrative Science Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Review, Journal of Management, and Journal of Management Studies and in public management journals such as the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory and Public Administration Review.

Provan was a charter member one of only 33 scholars of the Academy of Management Journal’s Hall of Fame. In September, he was elected as a fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Public Administration.

Provan also was active in the Academy of Management, where he was a prior officer in both the Health Care Management and Public and Nonprofit Sector divisions. He was active in the European Group for Organization Studies and the Public Management Research Association. He served on the editorial boards of several major journals in management, public management and health care. And most recently he was the Co-editor of the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, and an Associate Editor of the Academy of Management Journal.

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