

### **From Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition**

- (1) A person appointed to superintend or preside.
- (2) An administrative officer in any of various colleges and universities who holds high rank and is concerned with the curriculum, faculty appointments, etc.
- (3) The chief dignitary of a cathedral or collegiate church.

### **Excerpts from the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition, 1989**

In ecclesiastical and scholastic use: The specific title of the heads of certain educational colleges.

In earlier instances, a survival from the ecclesiastical establishments in which these originated; and in later instances an extension of the name to subsequent foundations.

The title is borne by the heads of Oriel, Queen's, and Worcester Colleges at Oxford, King's College, Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin; also of Eton College, and now or formerly of certain other colleges in England, Scotland, the United States, etc.

### **From Merriam-Webster OnLine (<http://www.m-w.com/>)**

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *profost* & Anglo-French *provost*, from Medieval Latin *propositus*, alteration of *praepositus*, from Latin, one in charge, director, from past participle of *praepone*, to place at the head.

- (1) The chief dignitary of a collegiate or cathedral chapter
- (2) A high-ranking university administrative officer