Alan Harrison completed a five-year term as Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) at Queen’s University on July 31, 2016. In this position, Harrison was the university’s Chief Academic Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Budget Officer, working with his fellow Vice-Principals to ensure that planning was fully integrated across the university, supported the university’s academic mission, and was supported by an appropriate allocation of resources.

Helped enormously by an outstanding team of direct reports, Harrison effected major change throughout Queen’s University during his term as Provost. Significant accomplishments (besides the new budget model) included the university’s first five-year Strategic Framework, and the first Strategic Mandate Agreement with the provincial government. As the primary contact with the provincial government's bureaucracy, Harrison played a major role in building, and then sustaining, Queen’s excellent relationship with the provincial government. He also completely overhauled Queen’s international operations and put in place a Strategic Enrolment Management process. Additionally, he was involved to varying degrees in several capital projects, most notably (until he stepped down) as the executive lead on the Innovation and Wellness Centre. His service to Queen’s in support of this project, construction on which began in September, 2016, included a short but very successful foray into fund-raising from both alumni and government.

Harrison joined Queen’s University from the University of Calgary, where he served for five years as Provost and Vice-President (Academic). Before moving to Calgary, he spent three years as the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, and 26 years at McMaster University, where he rose through the academic ranks before serving as Chair of the Department of Economics (1992-1997) and Dean of Social Sciences (1997-2003).

Harrison’s accomplishments extend to his time as a teacher and researcher in economics. In 2003, the McMaster Students’ Union honoured him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in teaching. His papers have been published in major economics journals, including the American Economic Review, the Review of Economic Studies, the International Economic Review, and the Canadian Journal of Economics, and his research was supported for many years by a succession of grants from Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.