Sally Mason became the 20th President of the University of Iowa on August 1, 2007. Trained as a cell developmental biologist, she holds a full professorship in the Department of Biology of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The daughter of an immigrant father and the first child in her family to attend college, President Mason holds a Ph.D. in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology from the University of Arizona. She joined the molecular biosciences faculty at the University of Kansas in 1981 and won appointment as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1995. A strong advocate of undergraduate education, she received awards for outstanding undergraduate advising and teaching, and she was awarded a prestigious Kemper Teaching Fellowship. President Mason served as provost of Purdue University from 2001–2007.

President Mason is the author of many scientific papers and has obtained a number of research grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Wesley Research Foundation, and the Lilly Endowment. She has served or is currently serving leadership roles in such organizations as the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences; the National Science Foundation Directorate for Education and Human Resources; the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU); the American Council on Education (ACE); the Universities Research Association; Campus Compact; the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC); the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors.; the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association; the Task Force on National Energy Policy and Midwestern Competitiveness of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; and the National Medal of Science President’s Committee.

June 13, 2013