Jerold L. Hale began his appointment as dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences on July 1, 2013. He came to the College from the University of Michigan's Dearborn campus, where he was dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters and a professor of communication.

Hale is an internationally recognized scholar whose work focuses on persuasive communication processes and interpersonal communication. His persuasion research examines the impact of a variety of persuasive message strategies and the persuasive impact of group discussion. His interpersonal communication research examines perceptions of unexpected conversational behaviors and on repetitive disagreements in personal relationships. He is the author of more than 60 journal articles and book chapters. His work has been published in nearly every communication journal featuring social scientific research. He has also served as a member of the editorial boards of several communication and interdisciplinary journals.

Hale is an adroit instructor capable of teaching courses related to a number of communication functions and contexts. He is as comfortable and capable teaching a small seminar as he is in a larger lecture format. He has been recognized by several universities and professional groups for the quality of his teaching.

As an administrator, Hale is an enthusiastic and unapologetic proponent of the liberal arts and sciences and of liberal education. He recognizes and values the transferable skill sets learned in the liberal arts and sciences and the ability of liberal education to maximize creativity in and out of the workplace. He is looking forward to contributing to the College’s long-standing tradition of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and in keeping the School of Humanities and Social Sciences as key participants in the College of Charleston’s academic initiatives.