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Professor  
Entomology and Plant Pathology

Candidate Statement, President-Elect

I have been a member of the UT faculty since 1992. My research and teaching programs are focused on the biology, ecology, and environmentally sustainable control of fungal plant pathogens on a variety of food, fiber, and biofuels crops. My primary teaching responsibilities have included three graduate courses, and I have directed 18 graduate students. I have also led or participated in numerous educational outreach programs for middle and high school teachers and students, with a focus on biological diversity, genetics, and molecular biology.

Throughout my career I have served in numerous elected and appointed capacities at UT and in professional societies, often with a leadership role. I served on the UT Faculty Senate from 2001-2004, as chair of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee, as vice-chair of Research Council, and as a member of the Teaching Council and the Information Technology Committee. For the past two years I have been serving as a Senator, a member of the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Executive Council, and Secretary of the Senate. My service on committees has been wide-ranging, and has included reviews of departmental curricula, UT Research Centers and Institutes, an academic review of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and more than 20 faculty/ administrative/ professional staff search committees. Most recently I have had the privilege of serving on the UT-STRIDE (Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence) Committee, which is focused on increasing diversity and excellence among our faculty. I have also served as chair of the UT Biosafety Committee, and the UTIA Advisory Council. In many instances, the committees and councils on which I have served were involved in developing policies and procedures. These efforts have included the *UT Faculty Handbook*; departmental, college, and program by-laws; strategic plans for various units; diversity outreach; and new research and international initiatives for different units and groups.

In the next two years we will face challenging issues at the university, including allocation and re-allocation of the UT budget to avoid a predicted deficit. President DiPietro's action plan calls for several initiatives that aim to address the problem. Actions that will have greatest impact on the faculty and staff are program assessments to identify low-performing programs to fund program re-investment, and reviews of the processes for tenure and post-tenure review. Effective communication between administration and faculty will be vital during this process. Other important issues include development of more uniform policies that govern non-tenure track positions, and examination of benefits policies to be more inclusive of our diversity. In order to make a difference we must be engaged in shared governance. Throughout my career I have been a strong advocate for shared governance and would consider it an honor to serve as President-Elect of the Faculty Senate.