

Candidate Statement for Faculty Senate President-Elect, 13 April 2015

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University of Tennessee Knoxville, Associate Professor, 2001 – present

Master of Architecture, Princeton University, 1998

Bachelor of Science of Architecture, University of Virginia, 1992

It is my desire to serve the faculty of the University of Tennessee as Faculty Senate President. As a member of that faculty, I greatly value the link between teaching, research, and service and believe that, ideally, each should enhance the other. Service is often overlooked in this equation. Yet it is within service that one is able to hold influence over those things that truly matter – curriculum, engagement, infrastructural systems – that contribute to a quality of academics and a quality of life. It is in service that we offer voice to a faculty experience and contribute to the greater whole of the university. More critically, it is here in the Senate where the external overlaps and dialogues occurring throughout the university come together to advance our mission to be an elite university.

Those of us who serve on the Senate do so because we believe in faculty governance. We serve on behalf of our peers not because we seek to be administrators, but because in this role we can be good facilitators. We understand our responsibilities to our fellow faculty to share our perspectives, representing from the ground up. The Senate is one of the few outlets we have where we can speak as equals with the university administration, where they are accountable to us or where reciprocal dialog can occur. Why isn't this more broadly recognized? Among many faculty, there is a misconception of what the Senate does or what our potential may be. As president, my priority will be to communicate the relevancy of our mission and engage the faculty system wide, to foster a culture of service.

In seeking this position, I set forth three objectives:

COMMUNICATION Increase awareness of the role of the Faculty Senate amongst our faculty; practice advocacy to a degree that assures a seat at the table and an equal voice;

EFFICIENCY and IMPACT Critique committee structure and agenda to ensure senate members find their service meaningful and relevant; reinstitute a tradition of holding meetings with committee chairs in August to reaffirm the committee charge; target specific outcomes and end-of-year goals;

EMBRACE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES Reflective of the students and state that we serve, we are a heterogeneous faculty with a broad range of values; assure that we are fostering a culture of diversity and respect.

I look forward to the possibility of serving as your President, treating the opportunity as a kind of a design problem with the ultimate goal of elevating our perceived and actual standing within the greater university.