

# A Message from Faculty Senate President-Elect, Gary Skolits

## **Dear Colleagues:**

I am writing to encourage you to consider running for the UTK Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate is only as strong and effective as the faculty members who are part of this body. The Faculty Senate is charged with advising on and approving the general education objectives of the university. It advocates for the welfare of faculty; has a voice in academic policies (through the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils); contributes to preserving due process (through the Appeals Committee); and helps to guide budgetary priorities (through the Budget and Planning Committee). There are many other ways that the Faculty Senate is at the table to work with the campus and system administration in helping to move the university forward while advocating for core values of academic freedom and excellence. I welcome you to become involved. Senators include tenured, tenure seeking, and non-tenure track faculty (e.g., lecturers, clinical and research professors, etc.).

To learn more about the possibilities of senate service or share your interest in serving, please contact the caucus chair assigned to your college/function:

### **UTIA – Agriculture** (Electing 4 senators)

Caucus Chair - Andrea Ludwig: [aludwig@utk.edu](mailto:aludwig@utk.edu)

### **Architecture & Design** (Electing 1 senators)

Caucus Chair – Scott Wall: [swall2@utk.edu](mailto:swall2@utk.edu)

### **Arts and Sciences: Humanities** – (Electing 3 senators)

Caucus Chair - Christopher Craig: [ccraig@utk.edu](mailto:ccraig@utk.edu)

### **Arts and Sciences: Natural Sciences** (Electing 2 senators)

Caucus Chair - Crystal McAlvin: [cbickley@utk.edu](mailto:cbickley@utk.edu)

### **Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences** (Electing 2 senators)

Caucus Chair - Todd Freeberg: [tfreeber@utk.edu](mailto:tfreeber@utk.edu)

**Haslam College of Business** (Electing 3 senators)

Caucus Chair - James Myers: myers56@utk.edu

**Communication and Information** (Electing 2 senators)

Caucus Chair - Nick Geidner: ngeidner@gmail.com

**Education, Health and Human Sciences** (Electing 3 senators)

Caucus Chair - Lisa Driscoll: ldrisco1@utk.edu

**Engineering** (Electing 3 senators)

Caucus Chair – Xiaopeng Zhao: xzhao9@utk.edu

**Law** (Electing 1 senator)

Caucus Chair - Eliza Fink: eliza.fink@utk.edu

**Libraries** (Electing 1 senator)

Caucus Chair - Alan Wallace: awallac5@utk.edu

**Nursing** (Electing 1 senator)

Caucus Chair - Katherine Newnam: knewnam@utk.edu

**Social Work** (Electing 2 senators)

Caucus Chair - John Orme: jorme@utk.edu

**Veterinary Medicine** (Electing 3 senators)

Caucus Chair - Silke Hecht: shecht@utk.edu

The following offers more information on criteria to be a senator and expected duties for senate service from the Faculty Senate Bylaws. Please contact your caucus chair by Monday, February 11th if you are willing to be a senate candidate.

## CRITERIA TO BE A SENATOR:

**Elected Faculty Members:** Elected faculty members shall be chosen from those members of the faculty meeting the following criteria at the time of the election: (1) the holding of full-time or continuing part-time appointment with the rank, or equivalent rank, of lecturer, clinical instructor, assistant professor or higher; and (2) the performance of academic duties totaling at least half-time teaching, research, service, or departmental administration.

## DUTIES OF A FACULTY SENATOR:

**Duties of a Faculty Senator.** Each voting member of the Faculty Senate shall: 1. Represent the constituency and the broader interests of the faculty; 2. Attend and participate in Faculty Senate meetings (Mondays 3:30-5:00 pm) on a regular basis; 3. Participate actively in the appropriate caucus; 4. Communicate and interact regularly with constituents; 5. Maintain active membership on at least one Faculty Senate standing committee; 6. Serve on other committees and task forces as needed; and 7. Participate in Faculty Senate retreats, training, and information sessions.

Best,

Gary Skolits

Faculty Senate President-Elect

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