

Bonnie H. Ownley

UTK/UTIA Campus Representative for Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)

I am a professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. In the past few years, I have served many shared governance roles at UTK/UTIA. I have been elected for two terms as senator (2013 – 2016; 2020 - 2023) representing UTIA, and served as a senate officer from 2013 – 2018 (secretary, president-elect, president, and past president). As an officer, I served on all faculty senate committees, and chaired the Executive Council, Nominations, and University System Relations committees. I have also served as a member-at-large on the Faculty Senate (FS) Executive Council and am currently co-chairing the FS Athletics Committee. Following enactment of the UT Focus Act, I served as the non-voting faculty representative on the Research, Education, and Service Committee of the UT Board of Trustees (2018 - 2019). Diversity and Inclusion are a priority for me, and I currently serve on the Faculty Advisory Board to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement, as co-chair of S.T.R.I.D.E, and as co-chair of the Equity Committee of the Commission for Women.

I am currently serving as the past president of Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS), which is an independent consortium of senate presidents and campus representatives from the 10 public universities in Tennessee. TUFS representatives share information on campus challenges and successes, and work together to formulate solutions to common problems. This includes topics from faculty and staff benefits to proposed legislation that affects public universities in Tennessee. I have represented UTK/UTIA in TUFS since 2016. In addition to annual concerns involving shared governance, university budgets, and guns on campus, faculty at the 10 public universities are facing myriad issues of significant concern stemming from the pandemic, including personal safety and safety of students, teaching modality choice, enrollment and tuition-based budgets, intellectual property rights for online courses, and concerns about student athletes and athletic department budgets. If elected, I will represent UTK/UTIA interests for the best outcomes for our faculty, staff, and students.