

Brian Ambroziak
Candidate Statement for Faculty Senate President-Elect
May 3rd, 2021

STATEMENT

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 as a flagship 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. As president, my priority will be to communicate the relevancy of our mission and engage the faculty to foster a culture of service. In seeking this position, I set forth the following primary objectives:

- I hope to continue making progress on the strategic plan. It represents a tremendous amount of input from various constituencies. We must continue these efforts with strong faculty leadership that guides us to achieve the stated goals as well as developing clear metrics to measure those goals.
- With regard to Diversity and Inclusion, non-discrimination is not enough. We must be partners with the university's Division of Diversity and Engagement and involve faculty in training and conducting difficult conversations, especially as it relates to bias, racism, and injustice on campus and in our communities. We must actively strive to improve the composition of the faculty, staff, and student body as it relates to race, gender, and sexual orientation to reflect our global aspirations and our student body. We must take advantage of targeted opportunity hires and other opportunities that can accelerate change and assure that we are fostering a campus culture of diversity, respect, and belonging. We should not strive to be equal with our peer institutions, but rather set a national example.
- I will take an active role in understanding the implications of the new budget model – the RCM. I believe that becoming more efficient is of course positive. But I also recognize that there is great variation between the colleges with how we teach and research. A one size fits all business model of efficiency is not what we seek nor what we have been promised, so we must find within this system the points of adaption that support intercollegiate teaching and research. At times we may even reward certain inefficiencies when the learning outcomes outweigh any financial savings. As such, there must be faculty involvement as we determine best practices under the new budget model.
- And finally, as Faculty Senate President, I will take campus and system relations very seriously. As a member of the UT Faculty Council, I would work with our system campuses in Chattanooga, Martin, the Health Science Center at Memphis, the Space Institute at Tullahoma, and the statewide Institute of Agriculture and Institute for Public Service to assure that we lead by example and have a strong voice as the flagship campus in the system.

The tremendous success we as a university achieved during the unprecedented ordeal we faced throughout COVID-19 was only possible because faculty and administration worked together seamlessly and stressed the importance of communication. I believe that such models of collaboration serve as a valuable precedent as we move forward and provide valuable insight as to achieving positive outcomes regardless the obstacles confronting us.

BIOGRAPHY

Brian Ambroziak is an Associate Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Architecture & Design at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He received his Master of Architecture degree from Princeton University and his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Virginia. His research engages the creative process, the development of one's *artistic conscience*, and focuses on the complex relationship between design and methods of representation and visualization with an inherent bias towards writing and collage. His publications include *Michael Graves: Images of a Grand Tour* (2005) and *Infinite Perspectives: Two Thousand Years of Three-Dimensional Mapmaking* (1999) with Princeton Architectural Press. He and his partner Katherine Ambroziak have been finalists in design competitions that include the National World War II Memorial and a design for St. Mark's Coptic Canadian Village. In 2008, Brian Ambroziak founded the award-winning practice *timescapelab* with Andrew McLellan and Katherine Ambroziak.

In 2018, Ambroziak received the UTK Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2017, he was appointed as the College of Architecture & Design's inaugural University Diversity Champion. He served as the Faculty Senate Caucus Chair for the College of Architecture & Design in both 2013 and 2017. Ambroziak has proudly served on the Faculty Senate Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, the Faculty Senate Technology Subcommittee, the Council for Diversity and Inclusion (Faculty Senate Representative), the Faculty Senate Athletics Committee, and the Faculty Senate Academic Appeals Committee.