

Amber Roessner
Statement of Interest
Faculty Senate President-Elect, 2022-2023

Statement

I have been a faculty member in the School of Journalism & Electronic Media at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville since July 2010. I am currently serving my second term on Faculty Senate and have served as the chair and co-chair of the Faculty Senate's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and as a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee from fall 2018 to fall 2020. During my two terms on Faculty Senate, I have been impressed by the potential to affect lasting change through responsible and attentive faculty governance. For example, after a resolution initiated by the Faculty Senate's Diversity & Inclusion Committee in fall 2018, interim Chancellor Wayne Davis appointed Tyvi Small to be the Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Engagement. In the years since, members of Faculty Senate have continued to play a pivotal role in the health of our University community, most recently advocating for greater safety protocols amid the pandemic, championing justice in the case regarding Dr. Amning Hu, encouraging more agency in instruction and flexibility in teaching modalities, insisting on a continued commitment to academic freedom in the classroom, and reviewing academic policies and procedures to ensure that they support an inclusive community of scholars and students. Make no doubt about it—we will continue to encounter challenges amid persistent structural inequities and the lingering effects of the pandemic, and in order to adeptly surmount them we must remain committed to a robust faculty governance that is responsive to the voices of our faculty, staff, and students and committed to addressing the needs of our community by working alongside student, staff, faculty, administrative, and community leaders on this campus and beyond. Though it is impossible to foresee in totality the challenges that we may encounter tomorrow, we can be certain that to overcome them and to continue to affect positive change we will need to engage in effective communication within our community; to persist, when necessary, in speaking truth to power; and to remain adept in addressing challenges as they arise.

Biography

Lori Amber Roessner, an associate professor at the University of Tennessee's School of Journalism & Electronic Media, teaches and studies media history and its relationship to cultural phenomena and practices, including the operation of politics, the negotiation of public images and collective memories, and the construction of race, gender, and class.

Roessner's first book, *Inventing Baseball Heroes: Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson and the Sporting Press in America*, was published by LSU Press in June 2014. Since 2014, she has published two books, including *Jimmy Carter and the Birth of the Marathon Media Campaign* (LSU Press, 2020), and co-edited *Political Pioneer of the Press: Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Her Transnational Crusade for Social Justice* (Lexington Books, 2018). Her earlier journal-length cultural histories appeared in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly* and *Journalism History*, among others, contributing to her receiving the distinction of *American Journalism's* Inaugural Rising Scholar in 2014.

More recently, she has served as a Faculty Fellow for the University of Tennessee's Division for Diversity & Engagement, where she studied and offered recommendations for mitigating invisible and emotional labor.