THE UNIVERSITY _of_ TENNESSEE

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February 11, 2022

Elizabeth Schussler
Faculty Senate President-Elect
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

Dear President-Elect Schussler:

Please allow this letter to serve as my self-nomination for consideration as the next Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) representative. My interest in this position stems from my recent UTK Senate experiences where I currently serve as the Diversity and Inclusion Chair and long-standing focus on the role culture (including inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility) play in our interactions.

During my tenure at UTK and on the Faculty Senate, I have learned the importance of shared governance, checks and balances, and listening to perspectives that differ from my own. When we work together with our colleagues across the state whose campuses look and operate differently than ours, we set ourselves up to better meet our educational, administrative, and community engagement missions, meeting the needs of both internal and external stakeholders.

Serving on TUFS would enable me to hear what is happening at other four-year campuses in the state as well as share our experiences with others. Additionally, I look forward to the opportunity to participate in upcoming projects similar to the workload study TUFS recently completed. My background in research methods and analysis as well as applied research, such as the work I have done over the years with nonprofit organizations, would be an asset to TUFS and allow us to remain central to their future endeavors.

If chosen, I look forward to the opportunity to represent UTK on this body and report back to Faculty Senate, including the Executive Council, as needed. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me (email: violanti@utk.edu; phone: +1-865-974-7072).

With gratitude,

Michelle T. Violanti

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