

February 9, 2024

Please accept my candidacy for the office of Faculty Senate Vice President. I have served on Faculty Senate since April 2020. During this period I have also worked on the Community and Legislative Affairs standing committee, and I have co-chaired this committee during the current academic year. I have, consequently, also served on the Faculty Senate Steering Committee this year. I have an excellent record of meetings attendance, and, if elected, I will continue as a reliable, consistent, and active participant in Senate meetings and deliberations. I am fully committed to a transparent and representative mechanism of shared governance, and I look forward to supporting initiatives brought forth by the Senate in the future.

I have worked at UA as faculty in the Department of English since 2008, teaching, broadly, American Literature (with special research interests in the work of William Faulkner and Edgar Allen Poe). As part of the very large renewable contract cohort in this department, I served two terms as co-chair of the Instructor Committee, which successfully advocated for enfranchisement of Senior Instructors within the department. I am currently a Senior Instructor, and I am also the Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department. In this capacity, I have led a significant expansion of our formal internship program. As current director of that program, I have worked to systematize our processes, to develop guidelines for students, to align the program with community-engaged learning best practices, and to introduce academic rigor into the curriculum. I have increased our internship opportunities from three partnerships to over twenty, adding to our existing legal and publishing internships while also introducing a non-profit internships that expose our undergraduates to the professional marketability and flexibility of an English degree. I initiated and developed our new practicum course in grant writing as well. This spring, I will be working with the Alabama Greece Initiative to explore and hopefully establish an international internship exchange for the Department of English. Very exciting!

Beyond this, I serve on multiple committees within my department. I am also an active member of the Division of Community Affairs' Neighborhood Partnership Committee, Council on Community-Based Partnerships, and Realizing the Dream program. I am currently a part of this division's Community-Engaged Learning Fellows 2023-34 cohort as well. I have also served for the past four years on the University's Campus Master Plan Committee.

In addition to a strong record of service at the University, I am also active within the community. I recently concluded two terms of service on the Stillman College Foundation. I am on the Board of Directors for Historic Tuscaloosa, where I led the establishment and seeding of a permanent endowment fund during the past year. I am a current member and past vice president of Tuscaloosa Neighbors Together. I also annually coordinate and present Good Citizenship awards in elementary and middle schools, Outstanding Cadet JROTC awards in High Schools, and Outstanding Cadet ROTC awards here at UA on behalf of the Chief Tuscaloosa Chapter of the DAR—a task which I find extremely rewarding.

TL;dr (am I allowed to do that in a formal letter of intent?): In brief, I am very ready and committed to serving the interests of the Faculty of the University, and if elected, I will do my utmost to promote our collective interests.