

## Statement for Chair Elect of the Faculty Senate

John Leavey, CLAS

Faculty are responsible for the excellence of the University's academic and professional programs. The Faculty Senate, as a deliberative body for mutual exchange, plays a key role in meeting that responsibility.

As Chair, I will:

- Facilitate the work of the Senate councils and committees to ensure that the faculty lead on academic issues
- Work closely with all groups to keep in sight the long-term goals and values of the University and find new ways to move forward
- Continue, as a member of the Board of Trustees, to educate the Trustees about our academic priorities, for example, the centrality of graduate and professional education, improvement of the student learning environment through lower student/faculty ratios, and retention and support of our most valuable resource, the faculty
- Expand the lines of communication between the Senate and other units of the University through meetings with the faculty councils of those units

A member of the faculty for thirty-three years, I have participated actively in service at all levels throughout my career and recognize the need to be fully engaged with shared governance.

Over the past six years, I chaired or co-chaired several Senate committees: the Committee on Committees—2006-2008, and The Arts and Humanities Working Group of the Faculty Senate—2005. I was also a member of the Academic Policy Council (2008-2009) and currently serve on the University Constitution Committee and the University Curriculum Committee.

In CLAS, I was elected chair of the Faculty Council (2007-2010) and then of the Faculty Assembly (2009-2010).