

**John M. (Jay) Watkins, Jr.**

I am honored to be considered to serve the faculty in any role possible, as I believe that my role as a member of the Faculty Senate is to advance the mission and goals of the Faculty and the University. My position as Associate Director of Bands at the University of Florida allows me to practice the craft of teaching in unique and varied settings, from individual lessons to the largest student performance ensemble on campus, with over 300 students from 115 different majors. As a Faculty Advisor working with new students during Preview and throughout their time at UF, I get the opportunity to work with students from every discipline on campus and help them find the passion that is going to allow them to develop to their potential.

I have been blessed with a varied educational and teaching background. Teaching band and music is my second career, after a successful career in the sciences, specifically as a research chemist with the Naval Research Laboratory, so I am equally comfortable with the arts and sciences and their respective needs. I am currently in my twenty-third year of teaching in higher education, with positions at a broad range of institutions such as the U.S. Naval Academy, Charleston Southern University, Valdosta State University and The University of Texas at Austin. At each school, I worked with faculty from all disciplines on a multitude of projects and in a variety of roles. These positions have allowed me to develop the personal and professional communication skills needed to work as a colleague with peers, students and administrators to advance mutually beneficial goals.

I look forward to working with and for the Faculty Senate.