

Statement for Chair Elect of the Faculty Senate

John Leavey, CLAS

The faculty is responsible for the integrity and 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 those responsibilities.

Goals

The current budget losses put at risk the core values of our educational and research missions, and faculty must lead the discussions about how to maintain and strengthen our quality. The budgetary crisis has put faculty morale and trust in shared governance at one of the lowest points in recent history. As Chair of the Faculty Senate, I will:

- Facilitate the work of the Senate councils and committees to put academic policy issues as the top priority and make sure that the faculty position is heard 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, the improvement of the student learning environment through lower student/faculty ratios, and the 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

Qualifications

My qualifications for the position of chair elect are several. A member of the faculty for thirty-one years, I have participated actively in service at all levels throughout my career. I am dedicated to having the faculty be fully engaged with shared governance.

Over the past seven years I have been active in shared governance on the Senate and College levels. I have chaired or co-chaired several Senate committees (the Ad-Hoc Faculty Senate Committee on Overseas Programs—2002; the Committee on Committees—2006-2008; and The Arts and Humanities Working Group of the Faculty Senate—2005).

In 2003, I was elected by the Senate for a two-year term to the General Education Council and in 2005 to a three-year term on the Committee on Committees. I served as chair of the Committee on Committees for two years, was a member last spring on the Ad Hoc Senate Steering Committee on the Chairmanship of the University Curriculum Committee and the General Education Committee, and served as a member of the Academic Policy Council this year.

In 2006, I was elected to the Senate for a three-year term, to the CLAS Investigations Committee on the History and Causes of the Budget Crisis, and to the CLAS Task Force for Shared Governance. I was elected chair for the past two years of the CLAS Faculty Council and before that to the Special Advisory Committee to the President on the Selection of the Dean of CLAS.

I led the Humanities Task Force that established the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere. Finally, I was a member of the Provost's committee exploring the implications of genetics (2001-2004).