

Scott Nygren

I have been a faculty senator for many years (1991-93, 2003-10) out of my belief that self-governance is a crucial part of becoming a top-ranked public research university at the national level. I have been a member of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for several years, as chair of the Academic Infrastructure Council (member 2004-07, chair 2004-06) and as chair of the Senate Council on Research and Scholarship (member 2007-10, chair 2009-10). In short, I believe in and am committed to the mission of the University of Florida to achieve academic excellence, technological innovation, internationalization, and high national standing.

I received my BA from the University of California at Berkeley and my PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo. I joined Film and Media Studies in the Department of English at UF in 1990, after previously participating in the creation of the Center for Media Study at SUNY-Buffalo, initiating a film education program at the Museum of Modern Art, heading the film program at the University of Toledo, co-founding and directing a Media Arts Center in northwest Ohio, and teaching at Ithaca College. I have lived in Japan and in Paris for extended periods of research, and am the author of *Time Frames: Japanese Cinema and the Unfolding of History* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007).

From my participation in university and college committees, I have worked with faculty from across the university. In my experience, UF has excellent faculty in many fields, and the diversity of interests and expertise is this university's greatest strength. I have also learned to be cautious about making general rules, since the heterogeneity of this campus often means that a policy that seems good in one area can be counter-productive in another.

The University of Florida today faces a number of challenges. New revenue sources, from outside funding and off-book courses to distance learning, combine both opportunities and risks, leading to questions about effort reporting and academic integrity. Although RCM budgeting can have positive potential, it also requires all faculty to monitor its implementation so that revenue incentives don't undermine academic excellence. Interdisciplinary programs, for example, are at risk under a budget model that could easily isolate colleges.

At the same time, universities across the country need to argue the importance of higher education to a larger public, so that voting constituencies will demand legislative support for sustainable funding. Public recognition and support of higher education remains a vital part of UF's future, and needs to be effectively argued. The responsibilities of Faculty Senate chair involve being the voice of the faculty to the administration, the Board of Trustees, and the public. I would welcome the opportunity to help address these challenges.