

Academic Senate Vice Chair Candidate Statement

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I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Vice Chair of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly Pomona. One of the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair is to represent the faculty in various venues. If elected, I am committed to representing to the best of my ability the faculty as a whole. I have gained tremendous respect for the Senate during my years of service. Over the time that I have been Cal Poly Pomona faculty, I have seen the Senate evolve from a contentious and argumentative body to the professional and effective organization it is today. The credit for that evolution goes to a number of past chairs to whom we all owe thanks. It would be an honor to continue their work.

During the past few months I have had occasion to speak personally with most of you. Through those discussions I have met people I would never have come to know through my regular academic duties. The focus of those conversations has sometimes wandered, but in amazing and unexpected ways that included ideas for new courses and projects that can link colleges and departments not normally considered to have common ground. In reflecting on this experience, I have realized the benefits of something as simple as a half hour coffee break with a colleague from another college. The Senate is one of the few organizations on campus that, of necessity, brings together faculty from every college and most departments. The potential for faculty creativity extends beyond the policies and reports that are the substance of the Senate's business. As Vice Chair I am committed to fostering an environment of collaboration and mutual respect.

1 Candidate's Background

As a Cal Poly alumna (BSEE 1977), I care deeply about the continued success of this institution because I know from personal experience how much difference an affordable quality education can make in someone's life. After graduation, I completed a MSEE at Caltech and became an engineer in the aerospace industry working on a variety of commercial, scientific and military space systems. Eventually I realized that I was more interested in "why" than in delivering working hardware and completed a PhD at UCLA, followed by a post-doctoral year in Lyon, France to prepare for a research career. Several years as a

lecturer and research staff member at UCLA convinced me that I wanted to teach as well as research. I returned to Cal Poly Pomona as faculty in 1999. Over the years, I have served the Academic Senate as a member of the Elections and Procedures and General Education Committees and, more recently, served on and then chaired the Academic Affairs Committee. I currently represent the College of Engineering on Senate Executive Committee and chair the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

2 Statement on Shared Governance

As faculty take on administrative roles and new administrators are hired, it is especially important that the Senate speaks clearly in matters that concern us. If elected I will need your support, and perhaps from time to time your patience, as I learn to be your Vice Chair. I am committed to listening to all faculty in order to bring their voice to the table in the various settings in which the Senate Vice Chair is one of your representatives.

Successful shared governance requires mutual respect, a commitment to continuing dialog, and the willingness to forge creative, mutually acceptable policies and procedures. There are natural and unavoidable differences in viewpoint between faculty and administrators, as well as between members of the various colleges and departments. My experience with difficult issues such as the time modules for the semester calendar and the Engineering A3 GE situation is that differences can be resolved when everyone takes the time to listen as well as speak. The concerns of all parties need to be stated clearly and respected. Achieving this goal requires that the Senate be a forum for discussion and resolution based on the essential work of the standing committees. I am committed to conducting the business of the Senate as a forum for such respectful and at times difficult debate.

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Vice Chair of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly Pomona. I look forward to the opportunity to learn more about the remarkable and diverse expertise of Cal Poly Pomona's faculty, and to facilitating their essential role in determining the way forward in those areas where the faculty voice should be heard.