
Academic Senate Chair Candidate Statement

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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, the Academic Affairs Committee, which I chaired last year. I am currently a member of the Senate Executive Committee and chair the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

2 Statement on Shared Governance

The need to elect a new Senate Chair is one of many consequences of the significant changes in leadership that our campus is experiencing. 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 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 Chair is your representative.

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. My experience with difficult issues such as the time modules for the semester calendar is that differences can be resolved when the concerns of both parties are stated clearly and are respected by both sides. 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 Chair of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly Pomona. It is, however, daunting to contemplate assuming that responsibility without benefit of having served as the Vice Chair in preparation. If elected, I'm sure that at times I will need your patience as I practice "learn by doing." 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.