

DECLARATION STATEMENTS FOR ALL CANDIDATES

For the Spring 2022 Runoff Election Ballot

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (6/1/22-5/31/23)

ABRAHAM, MATTHEW. Professor. Department of English, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences. Since joining the U of A faculty in 2013, I have worked closely on issues pertaining to academic freedom and shared governance in my scholarship as well as in my institutional and professional service commitments. Among my many institutional service commitments, I am proud that I have served in the last few years on the U of A Faculty Senate, the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, and the Committee of Eleven. The Nominating Committee plays an essential role in facilitating the work of the University by locating faculty members to serve on important University committees. It is important that those selecting faculty for these positions be fair-minded, possessing the capacity to consider diversity in all its dimensions. Over the years, I have been willing to take stands on academic principles that are vital to promoting the life of the mind so central to our endeavors. I have stood firm in backing these principles, even when doing so has made me unpopular. I am eager to bring my unique skillset to the important work of the Nominating Committee.

SULT, LESLIE A. Librarian. University of Arizona Libraries. I'm the coordinator of the UAL's pedagogical infrastructure initiatives, the General Education curricular support librarian, and the liaison librarian to the Department of Teaching Learning and Sociocultural Studies, the Department of Educational Studies Policy and Practice, and the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies in the College of Education. I earned my MLS from the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I work with faculty and students throughout the research lifecycle by offering in-depth research assistance and support. I enjoy using my teaching background to collaborate with faculty to integrate information literacy outcomes into class curricula both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. My academic service includes: being a member of the University Wide General Education Committee from 2008 - 2010 and again from 2016 - 2018, and the University of Arizona Undergraduate Council from 2010 - 2016. In addition, I have co-chaired the University of Arizona Libraries Continuing Status and Promotion Committee and the University of Arizona Libraries Annual Review Committee.

FACULTY SENATE COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE (6/1/22-5/31/24)

COMMON COLLEGE

There are currently no declared candidates. Please consider putting your name forth for the Runoff Election.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

ACOSTA, ABRAHAM I. Associate Professor of Latin American Cultural Studies. Department of Spanish and Portuguese, College of Humanities. I am an Associate Professor of Cultural Studies in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. In my scholarly work I investigate and reflect upon the relationship between political power and literary-cultural practices. Among many other things, my disciplinary training enables me insight into the many negative systematic effects the University of Arizona's current leadership structure creates and reproduces for women and people of color among both faculty and staff. In my many years at the University of Arizona I have seen and experienced far too many instances of implicit bias, (racism, gender-based, and other differential treatment) coming from people occupying leadership roles. Our current leadership is still nowhere near a minimum threshold of diversity nor in possession of a respectable record on inclusive and democratic decision-making. Rather, these symptoms have gone on, hand in hand, to predictable results: a mostly white and male leadership class enjoying the highest salaries and zero accountability, while faculty morale and salaries remain at historic lows. Current campus climate is toxic. Far too much time has passed since the UA's system of University leadership has been seriously scrutinized. Faculty Senate has the potential to do something about it. Now is a good time to start.

ECKE, PETER M. Professor. Department of German Studies, College of Humanities. This is the first time that I am running as Faculty Senate Candidate to represent the College of Humanities. I graduated from the UA and rejoined it in 2000 after working at a Mexican University for four years. I served as the Director of the German Language Program for 14 years, directed a summer study abroad program for 16 years, worked with colleagues in Education on Secondary Teacher Certification programs, taught general education courses on bilingualism and intercultural communication, and contributed to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching. I would be honored to represent the interests of students, staff, and faculty of the College (and beyond) in the Senate. I value co-governance, transparency and fairness and am particularly interested in how the UA addresses the challenges and opportunities of internationalization and globalization.

STEPHAN, ROBERT. Assistant Professor of Practice. Religious Studies and Classics, College of Humanities. Over the past decade contingent faculty have played an increasingly vital role in teaching and research here at the University of Arizona. Despite their important role as undergraduate instructors – often in general education courses which yield high enrollments and are essential to major recruitment – non-tenure track faculty lack adequate representation within university administration. And while the rhetoric surrounding these “career track” faculty positions may be changing, core aspects of these jobs have not: NTT faculty still lack the job security, compensation, and many of the governance privileges of their TT counterparts. As a career track Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of Religious Studies and Classics, I am

dedicated to the success of this university, success for both the students and for the faculty. My goal in running for the Faculty Senate is to ensure that the voices of all contingent faculty are heard in the discussions that will shape the future of this university. I believe this integration will allow us to dedicate ourselves even more deeply to what we love – teaching engaging classes, producing innovative research, and helping the University of Arizona thrive as an institution.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

FELLOUS, JEAN-MARC. Professor. Departments of Psychology and Biomedical Engineering, College of Science. My intent is to work to strengthen shared governance at our university, increase transparency and understanding of all major decisions and policies. I firmly believe that good decisions and good policy-making emanate from honest and transparent debates and accountability at all levels of the administration. Faculty, postdocs and students are the heart and soul of our university, and supporting their research, teaching and participation in governance are in my view paramount to ensuring the highest possible standing of our university. I am particularly interested in improving the fairness and efficiency of our grievance processes, due process in all administrative procedures, reviewing the University policies on ongoing covert access of faculty, students and staff emails and other communications and reviewing the nature of the interactions between the University and external federal agencies. I am also interested in finding ways to increase the university outreach to the public at large and to the Tucson Community in particular. As a member of an under-represented minority, I also am extremely interested not only in making sure our University becomes much more diverse, but that we allow diversity to be expressed as freely as possible, in all its forms. I have a zero-tolerance approach to racism, antisemitism and xenophobia. I am very interested, through policy-making, in helping our faculty to raise the bar in Research, Teaching and Service and take measured and innovative risks to push our university beyond the average of our peer R1 institutions. Finally, I believe that Research and Teaching have become inherently international, and that the Senate should work toward supporting and nurturing interactions with international partners worldwide, inclusively, with no exceptions.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

ABRAHAM, MATTHEW. Professor. Department of English, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. How might the U of A faculty best fortify and position themselves to address the many institutional challenges facing it over the next three years? That is something I have thought long and hard about during the last nine years in various shared governance capacities including service on CAFT and C-11. Administrative ambitions have far too often co-opted the energy and creativity of this faculty for not-so-beneficial ends, ultimately harming the University and influencing the public's perception of U of A's brand. If nothing else, the brouhaha around the U of A's acquisition of Ashford University demonstrates that the pursuit of short-term financial gain can

overwhelm a sense of good stewardship. As higher education comes under greater scrutiny with respect to why and how public funds are being spent in the way they are to support the academic enterprise, it imperative that we be able to generate convincing answers about why we are deserving of the state's financial backing. I look forward to advancing and participating in these and other vital conversations as an SBS Faculty Senator.

COCHRAN, STACEY. Associate Professor of Practice. Department of English, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. My purpose for serving is to support, encourage, and learn from my colleagues on Faculty Senate. My hope is to bring a compassionate and open-minded perspective to the role and to be a team player.

OLEARY, ANNA M. Professor and Department Head. Department of Mexican American Studies, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. If elected, I will work to create a culture of accountability and respect for shared governance. What I know and what I have learned about our institution comes from having been an undergraduate and graduate teaching assistant at the UA as a 3-time alumnus, from more than a decade of precarious employment working as an adjunct lecturer and professor of practice, and finally as a tenure-track and tenured professor and unit administrator. I know what it is to move through the ranks at the university as an underrepresented minority from a working-class background, and as a working mother. I have served in a range of university, college, and departmental committees in the interest of greater inclusion, but I also know what it is like to be excluded from where decisions are made. In recent years, the challenges faced by faculty, students, and staff have been surmountable only by asking more of those whose dedication is essential to keeping our academic mission in sight, while offering less in return. At the same time, I have watched the Faculty Senate and their leaders listen attentively and open up spaces for dialogue and difficult deliberations with senior academic leaders about budget cuts, staff and teaching cuts, new models for resource allocation that place greater pressure on departments, furloughs, and curriculum reforms to name a few, before final decisions were made. My admiration and respect for these faculty senate leaders only increased as new challenges emerged in the last two years. I am committed to ensuring that this work continues, so that the principles of shared governance are protected, so that concerns raised by those who work daily to mitigate the disruptions to teaching, research and service caused by decisions made in echo chambers are addressed, and I am committed to working hard to support efforts to provide and open up pathways and spaces for including diverse perspectives.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

DAO, CAC M. Professor of Practice. Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, College of Engineering. My interest as a faculty member has always been about education. Before joining the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Mechanics in 2013, I worked for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson. I have been

actively teaching both undergraduate and graduate classes. My students are from freshman to graduate level. I have been teaching the Introduction of Engineering course to freshman students for over 10 years. As a member of the Faculty Senate, I would like to present the concern and the need of the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Engineering to the general UA community at the Senate.

GUZMAN, ROBERTO Z. Professor. Department of Chemical & Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering. I joined the University of Arizona in 1989. I have served on several university, college, and departmental academic and research committees since I arrived at the UA. I have previously served several terms on the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Pertinent to my candidacy for the present committee, I have served in my Department's Promotion and Tenure Committee, in our College of Engineering Advisory Committee, in the College's Promotion and Tenure Committee, in the College Post tenure Review Audit Committee and in Academic Program Reviews for several UA Departments. In addition, I have also served in the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. Thus, I have acquired experience in academic and administration affairs dealing when faculty members of different departments and colleges and different administration units at all levels of the University of Arizona. I have always experienced and supported shared governance and academic freedom as the cornerstone of academia. Shared governance and freedom of expression in an academic setting is of utmost importance to be able to develop constructive criticisms that bring benefit to our faculty members, the university and society. It is essential that a fair and free process be upheld for development and implementation of an objective educational system. The cornerstone academic objectives of the University of Arizona can be attainable in part through unbiased and objective shared governance of faculty members from all units. From the experience working in the University, the most successful stories of excellence in teaching, research and creative activity have occurred when the process of shared governance has been implemented. As a Faculty Representative of the College of Engineering, I will continue working enthusiastically, with fairness and objectiveness to ensure, preserve, and strengthen these building blocks at the University of Arizona.

COLLEGE OF LAW

There are currently no declared candidates. Please consider putting your name forth for the Runoff Election.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

PACE, THADDEUS WESLEY WARREN. Associate Professor. Biobehavioral Health Science Division, College of Nursing. If elected, I will faithfully and energetically represent the interests of the College of Nursing at the Faculty Senate. I will do this by actively informing members of our college community about ongoing discussions at the Senate, and I will periodically hold informal community forums to achieve consensus

about matters before the Senate that are of import to the College of Nursing. As I perform this service, I will be guided by the core values of honesty, integrity, respect, perseverance, and servant leadership. I have successfully worked in elected service/ leadership positions before, including as co-President of the El Presidio Neighborhood Association for 3 years. That experience has prepared me to serve in the Faculty Senate as the representative from the College of Nursing. In the City of Tucson, neighborhood associations serve an important and essential function in the routine processes of city government, and these associations are a primary way that individuals in a neighborhood can organize together with a strong voice to exact meaningful change. Our college interacts with the Faculty Senate and the larger campus community in a similar way, and I believe our continuing participation as a college at the Senate is vital. Throughout my term, my overarching priority will be to facilitate and activate a sincere dialog between our college and the broader campus community by way of the Senate. I believe that the many challenges before us are best met when we have sincere, honest, and courageous conversations together. I also believe that such conversations must respect the variety of perspectives and experiences that we all have. While some conversations about challenge before us can be difficult, and we have had many such conversations in the last 2 years, I believe we can achieve the best overcomes when we persevere together as one.

COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES

WERCHAN, HENRY. Assistant Professor of Practice and Program Director for Applied Technology, College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST). I am committed to representing the shared interests of the CAST faculty and staff, and just as importantly, our diverse student population. I believe in the shared governance model of the University of Arizona faculty senate and am committed to representing the unique concerns and challenges of CAST. I received my degree from the University of Arizona in 1992 and have lived in the university area since 1997, and in Arizona since 1989. If elected to the faculty senate, I will carry out my responsibilities and ensure that the unique challenges of the CAST community are acknowledged and addressed.

WITTMAN, ROMI CARRELL. Assistant Professor of Practice, College of Applied Sciences and Technology (CAST). The University of Arizona is at a critical juncture. With the pandemic hopefully in the rear-view mirror, it's time to look ahead with clarity and make sound decisions based on data and reason. With a background in corporate executive leadership as well as academia, I feel I bring a unique perspective – not to mention the initiative and drive – to get things done as a Faculty Senator representing the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST). I began my academic career after a highly successful 20+ year career in corporate marketing and communications at the executive level. After teaching as an adjunct for eight years, the Organizational Leadership program offered me a full-time faculty position in the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST). I happily said goodbye to corporate life and embraced teaching, scholarship and student leadership because they fulfilled me in a way my

executive career hadn't. More specifically, I was inspired by the University of Arizona's status as a Minority Serving Institution and was drawn to CAST's predominantly post-traditional student population. In my five years as full-time CAST faculty, I've served on a number of College committees, including Personnel and Technology. I currently serve as the President of CAST's Faculty Forum. In this role, I serve as a conduit between faculty and administrative leadership and I work diligently to ensure that every faculty voice is heard. My duties as President require diplomacy, attention to detail and the ability to not only envision the future, but to also break that vision down into actionable steps. I will bring these skills to my role as Senator, where I will be a staunch advocate for the College as well as our students.

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

DIAL, SHARON M. Research Scientist. College of Veterinary Medicine. As the Faculty Senate representative from the College of Veterinary Medicine, I am committed to being a voice for all faculty in our college. The governance and oversight of the Faculty Senate at the University of Arizona is an essential part of ensuring that our faculty shares in decisions made by the University of Arizona administration. I have been a faculty member for 22 years and understand the importance of faculty voices in determining the future of their respective units. The University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine is a young college and having representation in the Faculty Senate will help ensure that the future of our college is appropriately supported by the University.