

Candidate Statement: Faculty Senate Chair

My Vision for Faculty: To me, service is important—it's the most direct way we can impact change. That is why I'm seeking to serve as your Senate Chair. I truly believe that for WVU to reach its biggest goals, like AAU membership, we need a strong faculty that is actively supported across our collective research, teaching, service, and clinical roles at *all* our campuses.

Bridging the Gap with Leadership: A Senate Chair's effectiveness depends on their relationship with University leadership. As a biologist, neuroscientist, and educator, I'm ready to hit the ground running with President Benson, our incoming Provost, and our future VP of Research. My goal is simple: to make sure that as our leadership looks toward institutional growth, faculty support, safety, and growth remain a priority.

Experience That Delivers Results: My background has given me a broad view of how our university functions:

- **College/university experiences:** Serving on Shared Governance, Faculty Welfare, University Culture Action Team, and Eberly Dean's Advisory Committee (current Chair) showed me shared and unit specific challenges faced by faculty and staff.
- **In Research & Collaboration:** Participating in and having leadership roles in HSC based large NIH and NSF grants has brought over \$30M in research funds to our state. These projects taught me that real impact happens when we prioritize cooperation over silos.
- **In Advocacy:** As Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, I immediately created transparent spaces where voices are heard and inform decisions. I've learned that meeting people where they are facilitates communication and purposeful growth.
- **Outside the University:** For nearly five years, I've served as President of my HOA Board, overseeing the first major capital project and working to maintain financial stability through tough fiscal times. This role has taught me how to stay level-headed when solving unpredictable and complex problems.

Looking Ahead: The current academic landscape is undeniably challenging, and there will be tough conversations and decisions ahead - but I am optimistic about our trajectory and the positive impact that our faculty can have through our shared governance institutions. I believe in WVU's potential for growth, but I also believe that meaningful growth as an institution of higher learning is only possible if our faculty is strong and well-represented. Given the breadth of my record and leadership in teaching, research, and service, I believe I am well-positioned to work with faculty across all WVU's colleges, schools, and campuses. If elected, I will spend my term listening to faculty and working with leadership to ensure our institutional goals and faculty well-being go hand-in-hand.