



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

March 9, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with an unusual request, one I hope that many will reflect on and consider embracing. We all have received from the Committee on Committees the standard request for participation in University committees and to stand for election for a number of critical faculty committees and offices, among these the FPC (Faculty Personnel Committee), FAC (Faculty Advisory Council), PTRAC (Promotion-Tenure-Retention Appeal Committee), FGAC (Faculty Grievance Appeal Committee), Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, and the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. These elected committees along with membership in the University Senate, are critical to effective faculty governance.

**FPC** provides critical peer faculty review and recommendations to the Provost on all tenure and promotion cases.

**FAC** provides timely and critical engagement with the President and Provost on a full array of campus matters.

The **Graduate Council** provides critical advice and oversight to graduate education and programs.

The **Undergraduate Council** is responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and enhancing the quality of the University's undergraduate programs.

The **Intercollegiate Athletics Committee** reviews a wide array of athletics matters, including opportunities for athletes to excel in academics, and the greater understanding of intercollegiate athletics and the relationship between academics and athletics.

**PTRAC** and **FGAC** ensure that colleagues can appeal negative decisions on promotion or tenure or other professional matters and have a hearing by their peers.

It has been a challenge in recent years to ensure that these committees are fully functioning. For example, the FPC has found itself short-handed, requiring special ad-hoc efforts to complete a workable group. These critical faculty committees very much need faculty colleagues to step up and participate. While we have been blessed by the commitment of colleagues across all of these committees, it is clear that the number of faculty agreeing to stand for election is declining, and it threatens our ability to ensure robust faculty engagement in some of our most crucial settings. So, please consider signing up for election to these critical committees and to the University Senate. It matters.

The details for the elections can be found here: <http://www.uoregon.edu/~uosenate/dirsen089/nominate089.html>

I am sure that colleagues serving on these committees today, as well as the Senate leadership and executive, as well as others of us who serve the UO, all would be happy to talk with you about this kind of service. It is real work, and it is critical, and it is worthwhile.

Sincerely,

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Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

RT/pjp

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