

My name is Pradeep Kumar. I teach in the Department of Physics and I am a candidate for the Senate Chair elect. I ask for your support.



I joined UF in 1979 as an Assistant Professor. Soon afterwards, I was asked to manage the public lecture series “Frontiers of Science.” During my three-year tenure as the coordinator Frontiers of Science, I quickly came to know many of the wonderful members of the UF faculty and its administration. I didn’t always agree with all of them, but I learned to communicate with them with mutual respect and understanding.

During 1992-96, I was the editor of a review journal "Superconductivity Review". In 1999, I was the first person from UF to be selected for research highlight in "Physics in Focus", a venue for selected papers of wider interest, published in Physical Review Letters, the preeminent journal in my field.

In 1995, I left Gainesville for a two-year stint at the US National Science Foundation as a Program Officer in the Division of Materials Research. I was asked to come back for another year in 1999-2000. Like several of you, I have continued to serve that institution (and other institutions) in various capacities as a reviewer, as a member of the panels and of a planning committee for the future of condensed matter theory, my principal research area. The time I spent at NSF cultivated in me a broader, national perspective on research funding, one that has often guided my own research.

My years serving on various committees with the faculty senate have given me an understanding of what needs to be done and how it must be articulated. In 2003, I was asked to serve on the Senate committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards. At its first meeting, Joe Layon nominated me to be its Chair. In 2004, I was elected an at-large member of the Senate Steering committee for the next three years. Finally I have served on the Reitz Union Board of Managers, Committee on Transportation and Parking and the Senate Committee for Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Alumni and Memorials. I have also served a three year term on the Budget Council.

What are my positions:

- I came to US as an international student. Foreign students vote for the excellence of US higher education system with their feet. But something must be right about the US secondary education also since our homegrown students are wonderfully competitive in all environments. As we listen to talks of reform, we also need to examine what is it that we find effective and admirable about our system that we must keep.
- A university is a “creative enterprise” with its own special needs. It is where students are taught but also where the knowledge base is enlarged. And the students are nevertheless the ultimate beneficiaries. For what it may be worth, federal funding of research grants is no longer a small fraction of the University budget. It may soon become the largest.

Businesses and Corporations engaged in cutting edge frontier research, such as Microsoft, HP, Intel and Google and the boutique drug companies often want to emulate a university. We need to be the guardians of the creative enterprise. We need to respond to the new challenges of times, remain open to the new opportunities but at the same time hang on to our best practices and basic values.

I love this university. I am proud of my colleagues and their accomplishments (and forbearance) especially in these hard times. I have the highest regards for its students; they are competitive in any

environment anywhere.

I intend to be a persuasive advocate for the faculty, both for its outstanding accomplishments and for its special interests. I intend to build consensus in the Senate and work with the administration in shared governance towards the future of the University.

As someone once said, you should plan for a famine in times of plenty and plan for a feast in times of famine. It helps to keep a good perspective, and when circumstances turn (as they always do), you are ready with a plan.

With all due respect, I ask for your vote.