

Fellow Senators,

It is with great excitement that I submit to you my interest in serving as the Chair-Elect for the 2015-2016 Faculty Senate. I have had the distinct privilege of serving as a College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Senator for the past three years providing me with an opportunity to fully appreciate the importance and value of shared governance at the University of Florida.



I am an Associate Professor of Leadership Education within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and have been active in shared governance at the college for four years. Within the CALS, I have been a member and chair of the curriculum committee, jointly serving the IFAS Faculty Assembly Executive committee and participating in IFAS Faculty Assembly meetings. It is through this branch of shared governance that I became interested in how decisions were made, the mechanism for communicating those decisions, and the impacts of those decisions on faculty, students, and administration.

Within my time as a Senator, I have served on the Academic Policy Council, as well as a member-at-large for the Senate Steering Committee. Both of these placements have been integral in understanding the connectedness of our councils and committees and how the work we do in shared governance often reaches far beyond our intended impacts. I have seen the issues that concern faculty, from gender equality in scholarship, the faculty review of administrators, the online evaluation system, the impact of Common Core, the UF Signature, or Grand Challenge curriculum, and the rise to preeminence. Each of these issues has a distinct impact on how we do business as an Institution and shared governance provides the catalyst for ensuring that our voice is heard.

One key goal that I would have for this position is developing an intentional framework that links together our college assemblies and councils. Having served as the IFAS Faculty Assembly Senate Liaison for two years, saw that there were many issues and discussions taking place, in which it would have been beneficial to have input and participation from each group. I found it interesting that the representatives that serve our unit assemblies and councils do not have to serve Senate and vice versa. This opens a space for miscommunication, missed opportunity, and misalignment. Facilitating open dialogue among these groups and senate will only serve to strengthen shared governance voice.

The University is truly at an exciting time in its history and faculty have the opportunity to be a part of the growth and direction that will certainly follow. I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to the opportunity to continue working with the University of Florida Faculty Senate.

Thank you.

Nicole Stedman
CALS Senator