

My name is Pradeep Kumar. I am a Professor 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 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—including the Senate committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards, the Senate Steering committee, the Reitz Union Board of Managers, Committee on Transportation and Parking, the Senate Committee for Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Alumni and Memorials, and the Budget Council—have given me an understanding of what needs to be done and how it must be articulated.

As Senate Chair, 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.

A year ago, we were discussing cutbacks caused by a still unhealthy economy and special surcharges/cutbacks imposed by the legislature. The environment is more optimistic this year with the budget yet to be decided, but clearly less sanguine than last year. We need to offer input into how we should recover.

But there are dark clouds nearby. Sequestration may make federal research funding more painful, with possibly dangerous long-term prospects. I am concerned about faculty burnout resulting from sequestration. We need to be proactive to prevent this.

With all due respect, I ask for your vote.