

Sarah D. Lynne, Ph.D.

As a double gator, it was during my graduate training that I developed a connection to the University of Florida. I was thrilled when the opportunity arose to come back as a faculty member. In my time since, I've had the honor of serving as a faculty senator (2018 – present), chair of the Welfare Council of the Faculty Senate (2020-2023), member of the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee on Academic Freedom (2021), member of the University of Florida Conflict of Interest Provost's Advisory Committee (2022 – present), and member of the University of Florida Presidential LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee (2021 – present). Through this service I have witnessed firsthand the resilience and incredible intellectual capacity of our faculty.

My time as chair of the Welfare Council and serving on the ad hoc committee on Academic Freedom were particularly influential in shaping my leadership style. In these roles, I led efforts aimed at amplifying the voice of the faculty on topics ranging from DEI initiatives to Covid-19 responses. I also gave voice to faculty concerns, maintaining confidentiality and anonymity of faculty identity when topics were sensitive.

We have faced several unanticipated challenges the past few years and I expect this will continue. If elected chair, I am prepared and willing to respond to these challenges while amplifying the voice of the faculty, in part by strengthening bidirectional communication between the faculty and UF administrative leaders. Our faculty are one of our most powerful resources and strong shared governance is key to utilizing this resource.