

2022 President-Elect Candidate

Yvette H. Spitz (at OSU since 1995), Professor (Ocean Ecology and Biogeochemistry, Physical Oceanography) – College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences

FACULTY SENATE SERVICE: Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences Faculty Senator (2020-21, 2014-16, 2009-11, 2006-08); Budgets & Fiscal Planning Committee (2022-present); Faculty Welfare Committee (2022-present); Faculty Economic Welfare and Retirement Committee (2018-2021); and Executive Committee (2012-13)

COLLEGE OF EARTH, OCEAN, AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES SERVICE: Peer Review of Teaching (2014-19 (chair, 2015-17); Strategic Planning & Hiring Committee (2011-14); Dean Advisory Committee (2010-11, 2008-09); and Promotion and Tenure Committee 2021-present (chair), 2009-10);

UNIVERSITY SERVICE: University Information and Technology Strategic Planning, Research Computing Task Force, (2019); President's Commission on the Status of Women (award subcommittee) (2018-21); Marine Studies Initiative (Faculty Governance Subcommittee) (2014-15); Coordinating Curriculum in Biological Informatics Task Force, Computational and Systems Biology (2014-15); Time and Attendance Steering Committee (2011-2013)

SEARCH COMMITTEE SERVICE: Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences Director – Research and Academic Computing (2021-22)

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: This is a critical time at Oregon State University as we undertake a number of exciting major initiatives, including strategic planning, baccalaureate revisions, and the "Believe It" capital campaign. Shared governance is paramount for the success of these efforts, as well as for achievement of our goal of student success in a safe and diverse environment. I will work tirelessly to develop creative approaches and entrepreneurial actions to supporting these initiatives. Strong and concerted leadership will ensure that the voice of the entire OSU community is heard at all levels. I will make us proud of OSU's shared governance model.

What will be the critical issues for faculty, and how can you help move those issues forward?

There are four major areas that I see as crucial in the coming years:

1) Governance

Many changes have taken place over the past 10 years that can affect our shared governance, including installation of a new Board of Trustees (2014), creation of United Academics of Oregon State University (2020), and, most recently, installation of our new president. I believe that all these entities share the same mission and core values and are dedicated to shared governance. However, because the Faculty Senators work directly with students and stakeholders through teaching and research, they are best positioned to promote the priorities of the faculty, staff and students. Through my service as a Faculty Senator for more than 10 years, I have had the opportunity to talk with many of my OSU colleagues about the advantages and challenges of shared governance. Despite the challenges, the Faculty Senate must remain an independent and inclusive avenue for the members of all campuses and Extension to work together

to promote our shared goal of student success and preparedness to the workforce in Oregon and beyond.

Past Senate Presidents and senators have worked successfully to ensure that the Senate remains an effective voice for all entities, and I will continue that work by listening to and collaborating with the community to ensure that all voices are heard, and all stakeholders are engaged. I will revisit the hyflex mode of Senate participation in order to promote a more convivial and inclusive meeting environment. Easy access to information (e.g., via the Senate website and newsletters) as well as inclusive meeting protocols are required for the success of shared governance. I will contact Faculty Senate Presidents from institutions around the U.S. to explore other successful approaches to shared governance.

2) Teaching and Research

Baccalaureate revisions are underway. The next two years will be critical as the implementation of these new curriculum components will occur. Because all colleges across the university will be involved in this process, the Faculty Senate and its committees and councils will remain a key player in ensuring we create a well-balanced curriculum inside of the proposed categories that will be endorsed by the whole community and lead to student success.

In addition to my teaching experience, I will bring almost three decades of research experience to my role as Senate President-Elect, enabling me to take the lead on a number of research-related issues. The university's new budget model does not necessarily reward research, but the research enterprise is growing. Our students also need some research experience to be successful after graduation. Faculty needs to have a voice when it comes to research on campus and OSU needs to invest to remain competitive. I will work hard to make sure that research is valued and emphasized as much as teaching. I will engage ASOSU in those discussions as the students are to be ready to the workforce in Oregon and beyond.

3) Faculty advancement and wellness

Listening carefully to my OSU colleagues, I have come to the realization that faculty are often close to burn-out, due not only to COVID, but also to increasing administrative responsibilities, rising number of students and somewhat ill-defined expectations. I promise to continue the pulse checks that Selina Heppell implemented during COVID. I also will work with committees to identify whether there are administrative burdens that could be alleviated for faculty.

While academia has changed over my tenure at OSU, the criteria academia for promotion have remained the same. I will work with the Faculty Senate Promotion & Tenure Committee and the Office of Faculty Affairs to investigate updated approaches that relate better to the current research, teaching and service enterprise.

4) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Supporting and improving diversity, equity and inclusion at the university is not a simple topic. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues need to be at the forefront of our concerns and will take constant work to address. We can only build a powerful society through unity and equality. As a female faculty member in the field of physics, I have worked hard to bring about gender equity and inclusion. I am committed to continue the fight for gender equity and to work with the same dedication to bring equity and inclusion for all.

How has your experience prepared you for this position?

As a faculty member in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences with a “flat” structure, I am well aware of the challenges and opportunities that shared governance offers. Our college functions with a similar structure as the faculty senate (committees and a faculty senate executive committee that is equivalent to the college leadership team; the president’s direct contact with administration parallels the dean). The college’s transition from conferring only graduate degrees to offering major undergraduate degrees as well, while exciting, presented challenges that taught me how critical it is for faculty to work together towards a common goal using shared governance. This is no different than shared governance for OSU. My participation as a senator for almost a decade and as an executive committee member has exposed me to the breath of University issues, including budget, leadership transition, tuition, and enrollment. I look forward to putting that experience to work to collaborate with the OSU community on our lofty and important goals.