

## 2023 President-Elect Candidate

**John Selker**, Professor ~ Biological and Ecological Engineering – College of Agricultural Sciences

FACULTY SENATE SERVICE: Agricultural Sciences Senator, 2014-09/2016, 2007-12, 2007-09, 2003-05; Administrative Appointments Committee, 2009-10; Executive Committee, 2010-11; Faculty Panels for Hearing Committees, 2008-12; and Graduate Council, 2002-05

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES SERVICE: Promotion & Tenure Committee, 2014-2015

**Candidate Statement:** OSU is remarkable with vibrant collaborations across campus at all levels. Mutual respect from the grass roots of identity to academic preparation, disciplinary expertise, and professional experience is an OSU “super-power” in tackling complex challenges of today. The Faculty Senate is poised to set the stage for the next generations of OSU communities that this invaluable cultural character is enhanced. The power of diverse engagement has not been fully realized by the Faculty Senate awaiting a Senate that is transparently the faculty’s senate, rather than an artifact of OSU’s founding and history. I wish to move the body faculty forward.

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

I have been on the OSU faculty for 32 years and had my first professional role at OSU in 1982 in Cordley Hall. I am deeply committed to and proud of the university and humbled to have been able to make a career here from assistant professor to distinguished professor, working with colleges across the entire campus, and serving on numerous committees of the Faculty Senate and university. I feel that the greatest threat to OSU is exemplified by the changes accelerated with COVID: a fracturing of the human contact and commitment to the common cause. Faculty now classify themselves as productive by way of their grants and papers, but seem to devalue availability to their students, investment in collegial relationships, and engagement in setting the direction of the university. OSU has the faculty composition to lead the world in finding solutions to fundamental problems, and to provide life-changing educational opportunities for its students. I believe the OSU faculty need to more proactively and deeply take ownership of OSU’s intellectual environment. Recent core curriculum changes provided an impressive example of the faculty’s potential, but I wonder about a few opportunities that seem less well addressed.

1. What is the faculty role in designing and evaluating the academic programs at the OSU-Cascades campus? I believe there is a growing gulf between the intellectual expectations of the three campuses (Corvallis, Cascades and Ecampus), and the faculty need to be central in knitting these together in an intellectual sense (not a logistical sense).
2. Do the faculty realize the enormous current responsibility of tenure? We faculty are, to a large degree, the last members of society who have the opportunity to speak truth as we see it, protected from repercussions from vested interests who may find those truths to be inconvenient. I want to see the OSU faculty reflect their awareness of this cultural burden that demands bravery, integrity, and obligation to the society-at-large. The Faculty Senate should take every opportunity to remind faculty and the public-at-large that we will stand for truth, as reflected in our teaching, research, and outreach.
3. Have we deeply committed to using the power of modern communication to educate not only those who pay tuition, but globally those hungry for knowledge? Ecampus is great, but puts up massive barriers for people of modest means. I hope the faculty will broadly engage the global community and, in so doing, both change the world and renew the vibrancy of OSU’s international community.