

2018 President-Elect Candidate (Early Fall Election)

Mina Carson (at OSU since 1989), Professor of History – School of History, Philosophy, and Religion – College of Liberal Arts

FACULTY SENATE SERVICE: Liberal Arts Senator, 2012-14, 2005-07, 1998-00, 1995-96 (term interrupted by sabbatical), 1991-93; Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS), 2003-08 (IFS Past President and faculty representative to the OUS Provosts' Council, 2008, IFS President 2006-07); Executive Committee, 2005-06; Faculty Economic Welfare and Retirement Committee, 2001-03 chair, 2002-03; and Budgets and Fiscal Planning Committee, 1992-95.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SERVICE: Personnel committee, 2011-13, 2008-10, 1996-98; Faculty Council, 2006-07, 2002-03 (president); Pauling Peace Lectureship Committee, 1991-93 (chair, 1992-93); and Curriculum Committee, 1991-93.

OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICE: Acting Director of Difference, Power, and Discrimination Program, 1996-97.

Candidate statement: Having been part of the OSU faculty since 1989, I'm proud to be part of this thriving institution. I've seen OSU survive the financial doldrums of the 1990s and move through a period of rapid growth in the last decade. Throughout this time, I've cherished the humane, open and energetic culture of this university – Oregon at its finest. As a faculty committed to shared governance, we have continued to learn from each other, as well as from our students, administrators and stakeholders, through our successes and our stumbles. It is an honor to be considered for this position.

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

One of the most important issues over the next few years will be the relationship of the Faculty Senate to the new United Academics of Oregon State University faculty union. This relationship will raise exciting and complicated questions, as the constituencies and personnel of each body overlap but are not identical. I would hope to encourage conversations dedicated to exploring the boundaries between, and responsibilities of, each body for matters near and dear to our professional roles and careers.

Another important set of issues is our relationship to OSU-Cascades and the fledgling OSU Portland program. While curricular matters are best handled through our robust committee structure, it is probably a good idea to pause to consider our expanded footprint in a more holistic and reflective way.

Finally, faculty governance can only stay healthy if faculty members participate in its bodies and activities. Most of the work of the Senate goes forward in its hardworking committees. It would not be a bad idea to shine a light on some of those committees, perhaps through open conversations or informational sessions, so newer faculty might glimpse what happens behind the curtain, before and after the monthly Senate meetings.

How has your experience prepared you for this position?

Most of my university service over the last thirty years has been as a Senator, or a member of various Senate committees, including five years with the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, which taught me much about faculty needs and struggles at our sister Oregon universities, as well as about the political and fiscal challenges of higher education in Oregon. I am a fan and advocate of shared governance. Collaborating with our colleagues in diverse units across campus, as well as with OSU administrators, can only strengthen our shared commitment to the vital work we do in and out of the classroom.