

2017 Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Candidate

GORAN JOVANOVIĆ (at OSU since 1991), Professor, School of Chemical, Biological, and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering.

FACULTY SENATE SERVICE: Engineering Faculty Senator, 2006-08, 2016-17; Diversity Council 2016-17; University Honors College Council, 2009-11; Joint Task Force on Shared Governance, 2009-11; Executive Committee, 2007-08; Graduate Council, 2006-07; Academic Standing Committee, 2003-05; Research Council, 1999-02; and Budgets & Fiscal Planning Committee, 1995-97 (chair, 1996-97).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE: OSU President's Commission on the Status of Women 2016-17; Provost's University International Strategies Council, 2012-14; Graduate Education Strategic Task Force, 2008-09; and INTO Steering Committee, 2008-09.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SERVICE: Co-Director of Microproducts Breakthrough Institute, 2013-14, 2010-11; Research Council, 2009-14; Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2007-10; and Graduate Committee, 2002-05, 1995-99.

SEARCH COMMITTEES (at the level of department head and above): College of Engineering Dean, 2012; and School of Chemical, Biological, and Environmental Engineering Department Head, 2011.

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be considered for Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Senator. Every moment in academic life presents challenges requiring creative and progressive solutions. Academic democracy provides the framework within which we can search for answers and informed decisions. One of the focal points in academic democracy is the university governance system. Through IFS I will strive to provide members of our academic community with informed and creative choices relevant to our everyday life. The true measure of success is residing in our ability to forge the future on our terms. I will commit my work to this kind of future.

What critical issues for faculty at a state-wide level will be best addressed through IFS and how can you help move those issues forward?

In the OSU mission statement, we proudly commit to promoting economic, social, cultural, and environmental progress for people across Oregon, the nation, and the world. Current economic and statewide persistent budget crises seriously imperil our ability to fulfill this mission. While failing the OSU mission is not an option, it is equally repulsive to think that we could possibly fail any person who works and studies on Oregon campuses. It would be ethically intolerable to safeguard the continuity of Oregon Academic institutions at the expense of individuals whose work and jobs are committed to its success. Academic self-governance and affirmative academic freedoms must be the main conduits of academic democracy practiced on all Oregon campuses.

There are many critical issues, which are emerging from the adverse funding position of the Oregon public-academia system. Three particular challenges are important for OSU faculty and faculty statewide: 1) expansion of Oregon public University campuses and, in particular, the growth of the OSU campus; 2) lasting deterioration of benefit packages; and, 3) investment into transformative – not quantitative – growth, which should enable us to maintain relevancy of academia in the future. Engagement of our community in finding solutions to these issues is the critical element of survival for institutions like OSU.

The growth of student body on the OSU campus presented us with substantial challenges: lack of facilities with adequate capacity, classroom and laboratories spaces; increased teaching load; and a disruptive impact on the Corvallis community. At the same time, this growth creates an opportunity to find new pathways in fulfilling our mission (economic growth, diversity, strengthening existing academic programs, and opening new programs).

The level of faculty compensation, retirement and health benefits, are not satisfactory and are often changing in an unfavorable direction. A cohesive position of all IFS members is a necessary condition to reverse the deterioration of compensation packages. More importantly, creative solutions common to all Oregon Universities may emerge from IFS, which would give us the necessary strength to implement changes.

I am ready to creatively contribute to the enhancement of our resources, which are truly needed to determine the future on our own terms.

How has your experience prepared you for this position?

It is not always certain that one could find, in 20+ years of my academic career at OSU, events that prepared me for this position in the environment in which we operate today. I have considerable knowledge in academic teaching, research, and administration, which I gained by working with faculty across all colleges at OSU and faculty members at other Oregon institutions. This experience provides me with confidence and the practical foundation to represent the interests of all OSU faculty and staff. A decade long leadership at the Microproducts Breakthrough Institute taught me that building alliances and producing innovative solutions are the most effective ingredients for moving forward.

I am certain that I can contribute new ideas and work constructively with the IFS leadership in creating new opportunities while observing our common values.