

2018 President-Elect Candidate

Dwaine Plaza (at OSU since 1997), Professor of Sociology – School of Public Policy; Associate Dean, (2016-18) – College of Liberal Arts.

FACULTY SENATE SERVICE: Liberal Arts Senator, 2014-18, 2007-12, 1999-01; Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Senator, 2015-18; Diversity Council, 2011-present (co-chair, 2013-14); Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2007-10; and Difference Power and Discrimination Task Force, 2000.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SERVICE: Developed study abroad to Canada 2015-18; Graduation Marshall 2013-17, 2004-2006; Developed a study abroad to Cuba, 2013-14; Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2013-2016; Creativity Fair Committee, 2012-13; Internationalization Sub-Committee, 2012; Personnel Committee, Executive Council, 2011; Gender and Diversity Committee 2008-09; Master Teacher, 2007-10; and Executive Faculty Council, 2001-02.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE: Diversity and Cultural Engagement Committee on Student Retention, 2017-18; Oregon State University Building Renaming Committee, 2017; Developed an MOU for student exchanges with the University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia, 2016; Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee, 2015; College of Science Diversity Working Group Committee Member, 2016; Member of the Community Diversity Relations Strategy Group, 2014-17; Advance Grant Summer Seminar Participant, 2015; Undergraduate Research Committee, 2013; Athletic Advisory Board, 2012-14; University Housing and Dining Advisory Board, 2011-13; Review Committee for Equal Opportunities Program and the Academic Success Center, 2009 (chair); NCAA Re-accreditation Self-Study Committee, 2009; and Association of Faculty for the Advancement of People of Color, 2008-11, 2002-03 (co-president).

SEARCH COMMITTEE SERVICE (at the level of department head and above): Search Advocate for the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology Assistant Professor Hire, 2016 and Member of the Search Committee for the New Chief Diversity Officer, 2017.

Candidate Statement: It is my desire to serve Oregon State University as the Faculty Senate President. I regard my job to be a steward responsible for maintaining a new model of shared governance which includes the senate, the administration and United Academics of Oregon State University. My vision would be to see the three stakeholders collectively working toward a shared goal of student success. I will bring integrity, hard work and tireless service to the job of Faculty Senate President. I will have an open door policy via which faculty, staff and students can directly communicate their suggestions and concerns to me.

What will be the critical issues for faculty, and how can you help move these issues forward? How has your experience prepared you for this position?

My experience at Oregon State University as a teacher, researcher, coordinator of the Sociology Department and the Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts has given me a rich perspective on many of the difficulties and opportunities facing our land grant university today. On the horizon some of the major challenges include: a new budget model for distributing resources to colleges; the expansion to new campuses in Newport and Portland, as well as further expansion of the OSU-Cascades campus; the unionization of faculty; an all-time high student enrollment; the consistent decline in funding by the state government; the decline of tenure and tenure track faculty lines; a Baccalaureate Core that is out of alignment with preparing students for their future workplace success; the impending retirement of our current university president; a major shift in seven senior administrative positions; student transfer efficiency and success; and increasing student first-year retention rates and student four- and six-year graduation rates.

As President of the Faculty Senate, my priority will be to communicate the relevancy of our land grant mission and to engage the faculty system-wide in a culture of service. I am a strong advocate for inclusivity, and ensuring every person at OSU, faculty, staff, and student, is provided an environment in which they can reach their full potential. I am an advocate for the recent faculty unionization. The OSU Faculty Senate, the administration and our new union – United Academics of Oregon State University (UAOSU) – are largely made up of the same faculty, which is why collaboration is essential to advance our shared mutual interests, the students' success. The Faculty Senate will retain authority over all matters related to the academic mission and continue to develop policies related to promotion and tenure; the UAOSU will advocate for fair working conditions, improving wages and protecting faculty workplace interests; and the administration will be responsible for the maintenance and supervision of Oregon State University faculty, staff and students.

I have three objectives during my tenure as the Faculty Senate President:

COMMUNICATION. Increase awareness of the role of the Faculty Senate amongst our faculty and practice advocacy to a degree that assures a seat at the table and an equal voice with the administration in all matters related to shared faculty governance.

EFFICIENCY and IMPACT. Critique the Faculty Senate committee structure and agenda to ensure that Faculty Senate members find their service meaningful and relevant to the goal of shared governance.

FACULTY RETENTION AND SUCCESS. At OSU we have a revolving door when it comes to the retention of women and faculty of color. This is detrimental to our spirit, and it also costs us a great deal in terms of the economics of hiring. I pledge to push for institutional and policy changes (as suggested by ADVANCE) that might lead to reductions in such events. We must also continue to make progress on promoting diversity both in the student and faculty/staff ranks.

If elected President-Elect of the Faculty Senate, I will do my best to serve with integrity, hard work and tireless service. I will also do my best to maintain an open door policy via which faculty, staff and students can directly communicate their suggestions and concerns with me.

Thank you for your consideration.