

## PERSONAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018 ELECTIONS

### ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

**Timothy Gay, Physics & Astronomy:** See Personal Statements web page.

**David Harwood, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences:** I am interested in serving on the Academic Planning Committee and representing the faculty at large during these challenging times of budget reductions and program review. My 25+ years as a professor, endowed chair, and research scientist at UNL provided me with valuable experience and perspectives regarding how our campuses function and our collective contributions to teaching, research, service, and extension. I was the chief architect and Principal Investigator of the international ANDRILL (Antarctic Geological Drilling) Program. I am presently a member of the Faculty Senate, I have served on and chaired Academic Rights & Responsibilities Special Hearing Committees, and I am a member of the College of Arts & Sciences Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the EAS Executive Committee. I am committed to UNL's academic mission as the flagship research institution in our state, and will welcome the opportunity to learn more about, and support, the diverse programs at UNL. I work proactively to enhance the professional development of NE science teachers and was awarded the NATS 'Catalyst Award' in 2015 for my service in this regard. I believe I possess the requisite skill-set and positive outlook to engage on behalf of the UNL faculty and staff as an active member of this important committee.

**Richard Leiter, College of Law:** I am interested in serving on the APC because of my (relatively) unique insight in the budget and planning process as a result of my background as an administrator (law library director) *and* faculty member (professor of law). I have been a full time faculty member *and* full time administrator of the law library for about thirty years, eighteen years here at the University of Nebraska's College of Law. In times like these of challenging budget appropriations, managing a complex organization like a research university can mean making thankless and very difficult choices. I believe that the choices that we are facing today are unnecessary and the result of state politics run amok, but that doesn't let us off the hook for dealing with the choices that have been thrust upon us and the administration. It is imperative that the APC work with the administration in order to make decisions that are best for the University's long term health and viability. I pledge to work hard on this committee to advance the goals and ideals of the university, and at the same time to work hard to guard our university's long term future.

**Kevin Smith, Political Science:**

I am interested in running for the APC because of the committee's central importance in defining and advancing academic planning goals and initiatives in an era of fiscal constraint. I have spent 25 years as a UNL faculty member and during that time have served as a department chair, associate director of a center, director of a graduate program, as well as on numerous college and university committees. This breadth of experience, I believe, has prepared me well to take on the duties of a member of the APC.

## **ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE:**

**Wes Peterson:** The Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee (ARRC) is one of the most important Faculty Senate committees and a critical element in shared governance at UNL. I have had the privilege of serving on the Academic Rights and Responsibilities panel in the past and am currently completing my second term as a member of the ARRC. I am leading an effort to revise the current codes of procedures that govern the ARRC and the special committees established to hear complaints and grievances from faculty, staff and administrators. The procedures are out of date and there is a real need to revise and modify them to address some of the problems that have arisen over the years. We have made progress on the revisions but there is still work to do and the changes being proposed will have to be approved by the Faculty Senate, the UNL Administration, the NU President, and the Board of Regents. I would like to have an additional term on the ARRC to complete this process and to participate in the other important work carried out by this committee.

**Joseph Weber, College of Journalism & Mass Communications:** At a time when faculty on so many campuses are the targets of criticism and worse, it's crucial for university groups such as the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Committee to uphold the high standards of the university community. Making certain that such matters as open and civil discourse are preserved and enhanced would be an appealing part of service on the committee I believe. Personally, I feel I would have a lot to learn about both the rights and responsibilities of faculty members and administrators and, when matters come up involving them, I would like to be able to contribute.

I have taught at UNL since the fall of 2009, after working in journalism for 35 years. I reported and wrote for two newspapers and two magazines, leaving the professional world as Chief of Correspondents and Chicago Bureau Chief for BusinessWeek Magazine. My graduate degree is from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and my undergraduate degree from Rutgers College. Since joining UNL, I have had the opportunity to write one book, which was published by a university press, and an assortment of journal articles. I have also had the chance, twice, to teach in China, once for a semester at Tsinghua University's journalism school in Beijing and once for a short course at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

At CoJMC, I regularly teach basic and advanced reporting and writing, as well as financial communications (the latter in conjunction with the College of Business). I have taught numerous other courses, as well, including media entrepreneurship, magazine writing, multimedia reporting and depth reporting. When I teach overseas, I teach business and financial journalism.

## **ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES PANEL:**

**Toni Anaya:** Thank you for considering me as a candidate to serve on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel. During my ten years as faculty, I have valued the importance of academic freedom and hope to continue to protect that right by serving on the ARRP. Previous experience includes serving as chair of the UNL Committee on

Committees, secretary of the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee and serving as a member of the Student Conduct Board.

**Karna Dam:** I been part of Nebraska Extension since 1990. Working with 4-H / Youth Development throughout my career, I have had a strong focus on College and Career Readiness, Ag Literacy and STEM education. I currently serve as the liaison between Nebraska Extension and UNL Admissions as a representative on the College Relations Committee. Serving my first year as a senator representing the Metro District, I find the Faculty Senate meetings to be intriguing and interesting. When asked to be on the ballot for the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel, I considered it before agreeing. Seeing the need for individuals on this panel to be strong in their convictions, I decided that assuming responsibility to this panel would take me into a new challenge as we continue to keep the Nebraska traditions moving forward at UNL.

**Edward Harris:** First some background on myself. I was born and raised by immigrant parents in California, went to BYU-Provo for my undergrad, LSU Med school for my PhD, and OU med school for my fellowship. I have been at UNL for 7 ½ years in the Dept. Biochemistry. Academic freedom is important for exploring new ideas and must be protected to move the progression of ideas forward. In my field, most ideas are relatively non-controversial in most cases, but in religion and politics (or any area in which there is management of society), the ideas of some may be contrary to what is accepted in society. The right to investigate a line of thought should be granted as long as it does not impinge on the rights and safety of others, though the inquiry may be in some ways controversial, repugnant, or rejected by most others. The inquiry should also respect the law of the land and specific institution/regulatory bodies must be notified if the inquiry should brush up against or cross the law. I am interested in joining the ARRP committee to gain more experience in the area of academic freedom and to hear more cases and to see how they are resolved in the best interest for all parties involved.

**Stephen Lahey, Classics & Religious Studies:** This committee's importance is becoming increasingly evident as events overtake past expectations, and its members should have experience with disciplinary norms and with NU's administrative operations. I have been Chair of my department for two years, have served on the CAS Promotion and Tenure Committee, and have been Chair of the university Academic Planning Committee. I am a member of the College's committee on Academic Freedom, which assists the Dean in the ongoing controversies regarding that topic and First Amendment issues. I have also served as APC monitor in the Administration's merger of NU's Engineering Schools, and its attempts to merge Hixson-Lied School and the Architecture College; in both cases, my attention was to the respective faculties' ability to retain control of curricula and research autonomy whatever the outcome. If elected to serve on this committee, I will make use of what I've learned from these experiences to protect the rights of faculty and students during this period of uncertainty about the nature of faculty self-governance.

**Elizabeth Lewis:** With academic freedom also comes ethical responsibility for all within the university community. Issues that come before the UNL Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel are often complex and must be attended to respectfully and without bias. In my work as a former high school teacher, current teacher education program coordinator, and associate professor I have been called to aid in resolving conflict. If elected to the ARRP, I will strive to be fair in addressing any concerns presented to this panel.

**Suping Lu, University Libraries:** I have been a faculty member at UNL for over 20 years, and over the years I have served on a number of university-wide committees, including Research Council and the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee. My service on ARRC and, in particular, my role as its chair for one year provided me with valuable experiences to get familiar with the mission, policies, procedures and function of the committee. I am more than happy to serve on the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel, if I am elected, to advocate and ensure that faculty rights and responsibilities are fairly protected and carried out.

**Dr. David Steffen, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences:**

I am a professor of Veterinary Medicine in IANR and have been on faculty since 1996. I recently completed a term on the faculty senate executive committee. I was inspired to get involved with faculty governance to learn more about it, and to learn more about the grievance processes. I felt, as faculty, we are often helpless when administration takes actions that seem arbitrary or vindictive or when other faculty behave in a bullying fashion. Staff employees have human resources professionals to intercede and mediate some of these interpersonal conflicts. Faculty, it seems are referred to the committee that oversees this panel or get no support.

I believe faculty should be treated fairly and respectfully by administration and cohorts and that a nonthreatening simple mediation process would be helpful to the function of the University. The Regents by-laws has language regarding grievance committees and ombudsman but if those functions exist they are not well publicized. Grievance is listed as a function of the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee but in my perception that committee seems more an arbitrator of tenure issues or major public controversy of academic freedom. It is still not clear to me who is best mediator of more common operational human conflict that exists. Also, the members of the committee and these panels do not as a rule have human resource training to effectively mediate grievances.

So my goal would be to be a fair arbitrator if called and to evaluate the breadth of support faculty might have from this committee so it can be more broadly known or that we might someday lobby additional support of human resources for mediation of interpersonal conflicts that don't rise to the level of academic freedom.