PERSONAL STATEMENTS FOR
2022 ELECTIONS

ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Anna Hiatt:

I have been teaching introductory biology for the last nine years and my work in this large lecture environment has presented many opportunities to interact and collaborate with students, faculty, and staff across UNL to address the needs of first year students and STEM majors. I’m most proud of my involvement with First Gen Nebraska and as a faculty member who was a first gen college student, I’m very aware of the many challenges our students face in and out of the classroom. I’m also involved in collaborative research with other STEM education researchers to design curricular tools and resources and train faculty how to implement best practices, and in particular, with how to embed and integrate science process skills and critical thinking into their curricula and assessments.

I am interested in serving on the Academic Planning Committee because I feel my experience in education research and curriculum development will be useful in making informed decisions about strategic initiatives. Most importantly, I feel my personal experience as a first gen student and neurodivergent learner will bring a unique and much-needed perspective to long-range planning related to institutional barriers and student success.

Susan Ourada:

I have always been a strong advocate for faculty governance. Last year I had the opportunity to work with the Academic Program Committee as my colleagues and I prepared to present our case for retention after the Director of the School of Music and the Dean of the Hixson Lied College put the dance program forward for elimination. In the end, funds were found to retain dance, two days prior to our scheduled appearance. Through this experience, I was able to see, first-hand, how important the Academic Program Committee is to faculty governance. It would be my honor to serve. (See attached bio for more information)

ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE:

Elizabeth Lewis:

I have been a faculty member at UNL for nearly 13 years and have served on numerous departmental, college, and university-wide committees and faculty senate and UNL AAUP Chapter that have helped me better understand the landscape of our work as faculty within our local educational system. Having served once before on the UNL Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel I have a deep appreciation of the complex issues that come before the UNL ARRP that must be attended to respectfully and without bias. In my work as a former high school science teacher, current science teacher education program coordinator, researcher, and
associate professor I have had many opportunities to work with students, faculty, and administrators on a variety of projects and problems. If elected once again to the UNL ARRP, I will strive to be fair in reviewing and addressing the individual concerns presented to the panel.

Maria Marron:

_The Responsibilities of the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee and Procedures for Handling Matters of Academic Freedom and Tenure, Grievance, and Professional Conduct, University of Nebraska-Lincoln,_ notes, _inter alia_, in its Introduction:

1.1.1. The ARRC has significant responsibility to ensure that faculty members and administrators are appropriately apprised of rights, responsibilities, principles, and procedures pertaining to matters of professional relationships.

1.1.2. The ARRC has primary responsibility to ensure and to arrange an appropriate investigation or hearing when concerns or problems arise between a faculty member and the University and/or when concerns or problems related to academic freedom and tenure, grievance, and professional conduct occur in the professional relationships between faculty members and others in the University community, as stated in the Syllabus of Campus-Wide Committees and the Bylaws of the Board of Regents (Section 2.12.1) . . .

As a candidate nominated to serve on the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee, I believe it is important that the ARRC concur with Clause 1.1.1. of Article 1.1. Responsibilities of the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee, i.e., “ensure that faculty members and administrators are appropriately apprised of rights, responsibilities, principles, and procedures pertaining to matters of professional relationships.”

The ARRC should be part of every new faculty member and new administrator’s orientation to the university to fulfill its obligation.

I, for one, both as an incoming dean and as a faculty member have never been apprised of my rights, responsibilities, etc., by the ARRC. I am not trying to undermine my candidacy in writing this, but rather to point out the necessity for the ARRC to have a more visible, more consequential role on campus. Academic rights and responsibilities invariably have been aligned with tenure, but in an age of declining tenure-track or tenured positions, and in a society increasingly polarized by political and cultural conflict, academic rights are more spurious than ever.

I believe it was a matter of academic rights and responsibilities, paralleled with academic “freedom” and bad judgment that conveyed AAUP censure to UNL.

It was a staunch defense of academic rights and academic “freedom” by President Ted Carter and Chancellor Ronnie Green that ensured ongoing instruction about the history of the United States in light of a regent’s attack on Critical Race Theory.
Both examples represent different cases, different people in key academic decision-making roles, different outcomes.

As someone who has served in a variety of institutions, unionized and non-unionized, and in a variety of roles, I look forward to serving on the ARRC and contributing, through my experience, reasoning, and profound respect for academic rights, to the discourse and the decisions of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maria B. Marron, Ph.D.
Professor
College of Journalism and Mass Communications

ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES PANEL:

Jena Asgarpour:

Esteemed Colleagues and Faculty Senators,
I am happy to provide this statement in support of consideration for nomination to serve on the Academic Rights & Responsibilities Panel.
At the core of it, my impetus to serve was equity and representation for practice faculty. I came to UNL in Fall 2017 with >26 years of academic experience throughout which I had been actively involved in shared governance and service. In response to a call from Karen Griffin in Fall 2017 I was surprised to learn that practice faculty were banned from service on the ARRC and ARRP. I contacted a COE faculty senate representative, elevated it to the executive committee, and ultimately at the Non-Tenure-Track (NTT) Faculty Forum (April 5, 2019) I challenged exclusion of the PoP and expressed my disbelief that the policy had not been questioned previously! An operative word in the name Academic Rights and Responsibilities is “rights”. Yet practice faculty were previously denied the “right” to be represented by a group of their peers. I believe that my advocacy contributed to the needed policy change.
I view faculty engagement in governance as a parallel to educated voting and engaged citizenship in support of effective government. To be effective in our work and in contributing to the advancement of the institution and its mission we must strive for and actively participate in shaping and creating a positive, constructive, and safe work environment for ourselves and our faculty peers. Those who leave their destiny in the hands of others are often disappointed in the outcomes with little justification to criticize the process and its outcomes due to their own apathy and inaction. Faculty must roll up their sleeves and co-create and impact the fiscal and administrative policies that define their working conditions and employment opportunities, just as Nebraska expects learning environments in which students can co-create and impact their learning opportunities and experiences.
In summary, while the major reason is inclusion and equitable representation for practice faculty, fundamentally it is my passion and experience in service and shared governance that drives me to want to serve on the ARRP. I am elated that the exclusion of PoP has been partially reversed!
Practice faculty are still not allowed to serve on the Academic Rights and Responsibility Committee nor on the Special Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT) Committee (ARRP Syllabus)! Does this imply that NTT do not have or understand Academic Freedom and cannot speak to it? Perhaps the change in the language should have allowed for NTT to serve on the AFT special committee when an Academic Freedom case is under review and disallowed them to serve on Tenure cases. It is quite likely that a diverse voice was absent when that discussion took place and when the decision was made. Regardless, this is a change for the better, long overdue, and I’d like to be part of this new change.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jena Asgarpour, Ph. D.
Professor of Practice
Director and Graduate Chair
Master of Engineering Management Program
College of Engineering

Effie Athanassopoulos:

I am interested in serving on the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel because I am a strong supporter of academic freedom, academic rights and responsibilities, and the role of faculty in university governance. Public universities play an important role in the civic life of our communities by upholding freedom of expression and democratic principles of education. Protecting the rights of all faculty members and addressing their concerns are top priorities. Through my 20+ years at UNL my awareness of academic rights and responsibilities and the need to protect them has continued to grow. I am jointly appointed in Anthropology and Classics. I am also a Fellow in the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. I have served on the Research Council, the Convocations Committee, and many departmental committees, including Promotion and Tenure, Personnel, Community Engagement, Chair of the Graduate committee, and ad hoc committees. If elected, I will work to ensure that there is transparency in the decision-making process, and that academic rights and responsibilities are safeguarded.

Brenda Aufdenkamp:

As a long-standing University employee that resides off-campus. I desire to learn and understand my role as a UNL faculty member. I have a desire to ensure that all employees and students are given an opportunity to have their concerns or problems heard. I feel that I can provide a broad perspective to listening and responding to issues that arise ensuring that both sides are heard. I value that all UNL employees have a voice as a part of the academic rights and responsibilities panel.

Brett Barney:

I have been a non-tenure track faculty at UNL for 18 years (first as a Research Assistant Professor and now as a Research Associate Professor) and have served in a variety of committee and leadership positions in the University libraries. Currently, I am a member of the Committee
on Academic Rank and Tenure. Although my appointment is in libraries, I also have a courtesy appointment in the English department and sometimes teach there, in addition to collaborating on digital research projects with professors in English, history, ethnic studies, and other humanities disciplines. I am both personally and professionally interested in and committed to principles of academic freedom, equity, and responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to guarding and strengthening those principles at UNL.

**Christina Falci:**

I have extensive experience working with the faculty senate, administration, and faculty colleagues on academic freedom, grievance matters, and professional conduct at UNL. I was a senator for the Department of Sociology from 2010 to 2013. I was elected to the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee (2017-2020) and served as chair from 2019 to 2020. I was appointed to the Professional Code of Conduct Committee (2019-2021), which was Ad hoc Faculty Senate Committee. With all this service, I am very familiar with all the college, university, and system policies that apply to Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panels.

I am a strong advocate for and defender of academic freedom. I worked with a team of faculty, administrators, and general counsel on the Ad hoc Committee on AAUP Censure (2018-2021). This team effort led to UNL being removed from AAUP censure. In 2021, a faculty colleague and I were awarded the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award by the UNL faculty senate for these efforts.

**Melissa Gomis:**

I have been at UNL a little over a year and a half. In previous positions at other institutions I’ve had the opportunity to serve on a number of faculty committees including Promotion and Tenure, Assessment, and Undergraduate Curriculum. Issues of academic freedom and rights and responsibilities of faculty are important to me. I believe in the importance of shared governance, fairness, and transparency around decision-making and procedures. Serving on the ARRP would be a great opportunity for me to work with colleagues across the university, share my perspective as a professor of practice, give back to the faculty community, and continue to grow professionally.

**Lisa Kaslon:**

Thank you for considering me for the ballot for the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee.

I have been with UNL for 18 years. I have been with Nebraska Extension for 25 years (7 years paid by the county as a 4-H assistant). In my time, I have served in several roles in the system. I currently serve as the Professional Development Coordinator for Nebraska Extension and while I serve as a member of the Extension Leadership Team, I am categorized as an Extension Educator and meet the terms of being a committee member.
I am interested and willing to serve on your committee for several reason. First, I believe in organizational citizenship and our duty as employees to serve the greater system. I have served on Faculty Senate, and I was an appointed member of the N150 and N2025 committees. In addition, I have served on numerous search committees and system wide groups to grow and support the greater good. Second, I honor the opportunity to be a faculty member and the rights we have as employees, and I would want to help make sure the rights of others are honored and protected. Finally, I continue to look for opportunities in the system to grow myself and this committee is another step in serving and learning more about our institution.

I would be honored to serve if elected and understand the responsibilities of serving on this important committee.

**Adam Smith:**

My name is Adam Smith and I serve as the Forestry and Fire Bureau Chief for the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). I have been a member of the UNL community since the Fall of 2005, when I arrived as an undergraduate student in CASNR (B.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Management). While completing my undergraduate work, I began working with the Nebraska Forest Service as a student worker in 2008. Upon graduation in 2009, I accepted a temporary office/service position with the agency. In 2011, I accepted my first managerial/professional position, leading the implementation of two federal grants. In 2013, I accepted a leadership position, overseeing all NFS programming/personnel related to forest products. During this time, I returned to the classroom and completed my graduate degree (M.S. Natural Resource Sciences with an emphasis on Agroforestry). In 2016, I accepted my first faculty position as Forest Products Program Leader. In 2019, I began in my current role and received a faculty promotion to Associate Forester in 2021 while in this role.

Having been a part of UNL as an undergraduate and graduate student and in positions ranging from student worker to promoted faculty. I have a wealth of experience and perspective within the university system. I feel that I can contribute to the work tasked to the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Panel.

**David Woodman:** My university-level service has focused intentionally on representing the interests of the Non-Tenure Track faculty to the broader university committee. To this end, I have served on these relevant university groups in the last five years:

- **2017-2018** Chair Information Technology and Services Committee
- **2016 April 14-15** Member of External Review Team for the Departments of Biology and Microbiology, South Dakota State University
- **2016** Search committee for EVC position (Donde Plowman hired.)
- **2017** Member of Internal Review Team for the APR for UNL Libraries
- **2018** Student Course Evaluation Task Force for the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor
- **2018** APC representative on the APR team for the Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences
- **2019** College of Arts and Sciences Lecturer Task Force
- **2018-2019** UNL AAUP Censure Removal Committee
- **2019-2020** CAS Lecturer Task Force, Co-chair
2019 – Professor of Practice Search Committee Chair, SBS
2018-2019 Ad-hoc committee on Academic Freedom in Research and Teaching
8/2019 New Faculty Development Program Panel Member
2019-2020 President UNL AAUP Chapter
2020 Member UNL Task Force for Bylaws changes (Members Susan Fritz NU Provost, Kevin Hanrahan Faculty Senate Representative, Christina Falci Faculty Senate Representative, Craig Hoefer, Senior Associate General Counsel, NU) This committee met about 1 to 2 times a week in the Summer of 2020 to hash out bylaw changes that were focused on removing UNL from the AAUP censure list. I am happy to note that President Carter agreed with the substantial changes proposed by the faculty members of the committee and disagreed with his own General Counsel advice. The subsequent changes made to the bylaws were approved by the NU Regents and UNL is now well positioned to be removed from censure.
8/2020 New Faculty Development Program Workshop Panel Member

Additionally, I have served on the faculty Senate Executive committee as a member, Secretary, President-Elect, President and Past-President. I have also served as the elected non-tenure track representative on the Faculty Senate Executive committee for the last three years.
ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Anna Hiatt for Academic Planning Committee:

Name: Anna Hiatt  
Position: Associate Professor of Practice in School of Biological Sciences  
Leadership and Service Experience: Current Director at Large for the National Association of Biology Teachers, member of the Midwest-Great Plains PULSE (Partnership for Undergraduate Life Science Education) Hub, member of the CAS Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech committee, member of the School of Biological Sciences Peer Review of Teaching Committee, and faculty representative for the LIFE course Advisory Board. Previously served on the First Gen Nebraska Advisory Board and School of Biological Sciences Undergraduate Affairs Committee.

Susan Levine Ourada for Academic Planning Committee:

Susan Levine Ourada is Associate Professor of Dance and Director of Dance Studies at the University of Nebraska in the Glenn Korff School.

Born and raised in New York City, Professor Ourada’s dance journey began with Dalcroze Eurythmy, a philosophy of teaching music with movement and thus blending the avocations of her father and mother, a Radio City Music Hall Percussionist and Rockette, respectively. As soon as she was old enough, she began study under the strict guidance of Anna Scarpova Youskevitch at the Igor Youskevitch School of Ballet. The Youskevitches came to the US as members of the historic Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo. Ourada discovered modern dance while an undergraduate at Beloit College as part of a Dance Collective. Her first teacher was Laura Pettibone Wright, also an undergraduate, who would become an esteemed dancer in Erick Hawkins’ company.

Ourada earned her Bachelor’s degree in Theater and Dance from Keene State College in 1996 and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Choreography and Performance from Smith College in 1999. She was a fellow at both Smith College and Mount Holyoke College, where she taught ballet and modern dance to undergraduate and graduate students. Professor Ourada’s first position after earning her MFA was at Keene State College. She soon moved to Fitchburg State College (now University) from 2000-2003, where she was the lone dance faculty in a department of Exercise and Sport Science. Ourada is also a skilled Pilates instructor having been owner and teacher of Central Pilates in Keene, NH before joining the faculty of UNL in 2004, where she discovered a stellar fit for her academic and artistic interests with colleagues and students.

Ourada has been involved in many projects across disciplines both in and out of the arts. Her collaboration with Drs. Eileen Hebets, from the School of Biology and Garrett Hope, from the School of Music, in the creation of a performance work the Schizocosa spider has been presented at the Nebraska State Capitol, the Museum of Nature and Science in Denver, the Kansas Dance Festival and was presented as part of a TedX Talk. She has been part of a Doris Duke Charitable Trust Fund Project uniting the Troika Ranch dance company, centered in NYC, Berlin, Germany
Ourada has choreographed several productions for the Nebraska Repertory Theatre and done multiple collaborations with music faculty as a performer and as a choreographer, including four times with the Cornhusker Marching Band. Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra has commissioned Professor Ourada’s work two times the most recent having been performed by Ourada with her professional dance company, sloDance, just days before the pandemic shut down in 2020. Days later she had the distinction of performing with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in their production of “What Problem?” and was honored to appear in “I know” a digital performance commissioned by Holland Performing Arts (the Netherlands).

Ourada has performed or had her work shown nationally in places like New York City, New England, Vancouver, BC, and Edinburgh, Scotland. She was part of a team who brought the opera “Most Happy Fella” to the Waterford (Ireland) Festival of Light Opera, where it won First Prize. She has taught dance/choreography nationally and internationally, including Catawba College in North Carolina, Ursinus College, in Collegeville, PA and Korea National School of the Arts in Seoul, South Korea.

Ourada and her colleague in Vermont, Paul Besaw, have been involved in a multiyear exchange, traveling to one another’s campus to teach, to create original work and to have students be part of the process. To date, UNL dance students have performed in Vermont six times, including having the opportunity to tour around New England showing work at public schools in Vermont, New Hampshire and Boston, Massachusetts. Ourada and Besaw are longtime collaborators and their most recent work, having just been shown at the Cohen Arts Center, in Burlington, will be presented in Lincoln in April 2022. The project will move forward to other venues starting in the Fall 2022.

Ourada has been a faculty advisor on two UCARE research projects and recently was co-advisor in an honor thesis “A Kinesiological Analysis of Dancers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln” that ultimately allowed the student to graduate with highest distinction and begin her study of dance medicine in London, UK, at one of Europe’s most prestigious conservatories. Ourada collaborated with Music Theorist, Dr. Gretchen Foley on a dance piece that was based on an exploration of how familiarity with Perle’s twelve-tone tonality, as analyzed by Dr. Foley, impacted the choreography of George Perle’s String Quartet No. 5. This work was accepted for presentation at both the International Conference of the Society for Music Theory in Baltimore,
MD and the College Music Society in Salt Lake City, UT and later published the blind peer reviewed journal “Theory and Practice”. She is Chief Advisor in the Dance Program.

Ourada has served on many committees in the Glenn Korff School including the Executive Committee for four (non-consecutive) terms, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and was part of the steering committee for the school’s recent strategic planning undertaking. She was instrumental in the Dance Program’s planning for and moving to the $1.9 million new spaces in the Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. She serves the Hixson Lied College on the Executive and Title IX Committees. She is a proud member of the UNL Faculty Senate and was chosen for the 2021-22 cohort of Faculty Fellows for Student Success.

Ourada currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American College Dance Association and has been a grant reviewer for the Nebraska and Wisconsin Arts Councils.