

## **Personal Statement: Kathryn E. Meier, Ph.D.**

It is an honor to be considered for the position of Chair of the Faculty Senate. I am currently in my second term as an elected member of the Senate (2003-09; 2010-13). I served on the Graduate Studies Committee from 2003-09, and was Chair of this committee from 2005-09. In the latter capacity, I was a member of the Steering Committee of the Senate from 2005-09. Prior to joining WSU in 2003, I was an elected Faculty Senator at the Medical University of South Carolina from 1997-2003, and a member of their Executive Council from 2000-01. These experiences demonstrate my experience with, as well as my commitment to, shared academic governance.

During my career, I have gained administrative experience in academia at multiple levels. For example, my extensive experience in chairing federal grant review panels has provided me with insight into how to lead groups with diverse opinions and agendas. I am currently Director of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology in the College of Pharmacy; this position is equivalent to that of department Chair. In this role, I have the exciting opportunity to participate in the development of a new academic center while leading dedicated faculty members (tenure and non-tenure track) in a recently consolidated unit. I also deal with the financial challenges that all academic units must address, and with the personal challenges that faculty members increasingly face.

During my tenure in the WSU Faculty Senate, I have seen the role of the Senate evolve during changing times. My initial impression of the WSU Senate was that it had far too much work to do, since the approval of courses and policies was not the role of the Senate at my previous institution. Many positive changes have occurred during the last nine years. For example, I have seen the committee work become more streamlined. During my time as Senator, I have seen the Senate deal with internal issues in a manner that has allowed its work to move forward. I have observed the University President playing an increasing role in Senate meetings. I have attended the Senate in both Pullman and Spokane, which has been very informative since the experiences are different. On a personal note, although my WSU office is in Spokane, I reside in both Spokane and Pullman, and can thus carry out Senate duties in Pullman as necessary.

Based on my observations, my goals for the Senate, should I be elected Chair, are as follows. First, I intend to expand the role of the Senate as a venue for distributing information to the faculty, by working with the Steering Committee to invite guest speakers from the faculty to address the Senate regarding timely topics. Second, I propose to facilitate the process of streamlining the work of the Faculty Senate committees through consultation with the committee chairs and with those in the central administration. Third, I plan to follow the example of the current and previous Senate Chairs in maintaining an atmosphere of professionalism and civil discourse in the Senate meetings. Fourth, I will ensure that the office of the Senate is run in a professional and efficient manner. In summary, through the aforementioned approaches, I hope to direct the energy of the Senate to the most serious problems that face the faculty, thereby making the participation of Senators in the meetings both productive and informative. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.