

Robert Rosenman

Statement of qualifications for Chair, Faculty Senate

I am a Professor of Economics in the School of Economic Sciences in CAHNRS. I have been at WSU since 1983, and am finishing my three-year stint in the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, having been Chair-elect two years ago, Chair last year, and Past-Chair this year. During these three years I have worked hard to successfully represent the faculty of Washington State University to the administration and beyond. Last year, in addition to being Senate Chair, I filled in as the Faculty Representative to the Legislature, again representing faculty interests, but this time to state representatives and senators, and members of the executive staff of the governor, and during one meeting with the governor.

The most important role of the Senate Chair is representing the faculty to the university administration. I have developed a strong mutual rapport and respect with President Floyd, Provost Bernardo, the Regents, and other upper level administrators. This relationship has served the interests of the faculty well. We have an open, honest and trusting relationship which allows for intense and critical discussions of important issues facing the university. I believe concerns I bring to the administration are taken seriously, my advice is valued, and my critical comments incorporated into final policy decisions. I think both the President and Provost look at me and the other members of the Executive Committee for important input in the running of the university. Continuing and building upon this trust will be critical as the university faces new challenges of growth and expansion, and it will become even more important that the faculty be represented by someone trusted by the administration.

I have several specific accomplishments from my last term that I think were of special value for the faculty. One of my first acts was to approach the provost (at that time Warwick Bayley) to initiate a critical review of the Faculty Manual. Working with Fran McSweeney, I did a comprehensive edit of the manual, correcting and simplifying language, revising antiquated policies, correcting dead hyperlinks, and proposing more comprehensive changes that are working through the Faculty Affairs Committee to be brought to the Senate and eventually to the Regents. Provost Bernardo and I signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formalized the role of the Faculty Senate for approving, initiating or moving departments, colleges and other units of the university. We have streamlined some of the processes of the curriculum review, and provided on-line tracking of program and course proposal on the Faculty Senate website. We have ensured and insisted that faculty be represented in major searches and committees at the university level by individuals chosen by the Senate, through the Executive Committee or the Steering Committee, rather than by the administration. We worked with the administration to develop fair rules for allocating recent salary increases. And at my request Provost Bernardo put together a committee to suggest revisions to the process and focus of the annual review of faculty. That proposal will be coming to the Senate shortly if it isn't already here.

My university service and leadership is deep and wide. I am on the Faculty Status Committee (my third time). I have been a department chair, headed several university level and Faculty Senate committees, and was chosen for the Sahlin Award for Leadership in 2012. I take teaching and research very seriously. I have won awards for both teaching and research, and have published over 90 articles in refereed professional journals. I somewhat idealistically believe being a university professor is a privilege and responsibility, but am cognizant that at times administrators underestimate how hard it is to do our job well.

I am running again for two reasons. While much has been accomplished, there is more to be done. My good relationship and common goals with the administration will help us, both the faculty and the university, grow and thrive, especially if we work together. I know I can continue to do that. In addition, I find my work in the Senate leadership the most productive and rewarding of all my extensive service to WSU. I would like the opportunity to continue serving the interests of the faculty and the university.