

2021 FACULTY REGENT ELECTION



Nominee Photo

Current NKU Position (including department and college)

Professor of Political Science

Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Organizational Leadership

College of Arts & Sciences

Biographical Statement (350-word maximum)

Over my 20 years at NKU I've been deeply involved in service, especially in the area of faculty governance. This ties in well with my academic background as a political scientist focusing on institutional effectiveness and policy.

After a brief stint as my department's representative to the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee I became our representative to the Faculty Senate, a position I held for 10 years (2006 - 15). During that time I was also a member of the Professional Concerns Committee, chairing the committee in the 2014-15 academic year. I was very active on the PCC, with my key accomplishment being the creation of an NKU faculty survey. The survey and its follow-up were not met with great delight by some administrators, but I believe they provided us with important information on the morale and priorities of the faculty.

I was Faculty Senate President from 2015-17, during which time I led a successful effort to revise and update the senate constitution and operating structure. This resulted in the creation of a faculty advocate position, more equitable compensation for service, and a committee structure that I believe better meets our needs. I chose to not run for a third term as Faculty Senate President after being awarded a sabbatical for the Fall 2017 semester.

I was elected Faculty Regent in 2018 and currently serve in that position. During my term, I've developed good relationships with my fellow NKU regents and have worked to advance faculty interests. At times, that has required me to push back against the wishes of the administration, most notably when I cast the sole vote against the administration's Research Misconduct Policy at the May 2020 Board of Regents meeting.

Why I want to serve as Faculty Regent (350-word maximum)

I believe I've been an effective Faculty Regent over the last three years and that I can be even more effective in a second (and final) term, should you choose to return me to the position. I've earned the respect of my fellow regents while at the same time demonstrating that I'm not a rubber-stamp for administration policies.

When the Board was initially considering our pension system options, almost everyone seemed to believe that it was a "done deal" and that the Board would choose the least costly option, despite any harm it might do to our staff and the reputation of NKU. After carefully studying the options, I worked to organize support for the "soft freeze" option on the Board, an option that ended up being unanimously approved. This is the sort of approach I will take on any issue of importance – considering all the options and working to build a consensus that is in the best interest of the faculty and the institution.

At present, only appointed members of NKU's Board of Regents are allowed to serve in leadership positions – this is a policy I hope to change. If I'm elected to a second term I believe I will be well-positioned to argue for this change that will put the Faculty and Staff Regents on more equal footing with regents appointed by the governor. There's also a discrepancy in term length, with many of the appointed members having been on the board for a number of years, as opposed to the Faculty, Staff, and Student Regents who typically serve only a single term. In my view, this can put us at a disadvantage, and having a Faculty Regent serve for a second term can help to advance the interests of NKU's faculty.

Webpage (an optional link to a webpage maintained by the candidate)