

Candidate Statements 2026 – 2027 Faculty Senate President

John Farrar

My name is John Farrar, I'm an Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and I'm running for 2026-2027 Faculty Senate President. I have served Faculty Senate since 2015, including four years as President (2020 to 2024). My extensive committee experience—Benefits, PCC (secretary and chair), General Education, Budget (current secretary), the ad hoc Handbook workgroup, and co-chair of the faculty workload workgroup—has given me deep institutional knowledge and the relationships necessary to lead effectively during this pivotal time.

I'm running again because Faculty Senate is essential collegial governance, and I'm committed to being a strong, public voice for faculty concerns and interests. During my previous term as President, Faculty Senate and Staff Congress made meaningful progress on issues affecting our campus community, and I believe continued strategic leadership will strengthen the university and protect faculty priorities.

With anticipated turnover on the Senate Executive Committee this year, experienced leadership is critical to maintain continuity and effectiveness. The Senate President's role requires significant behind-the-scenes work—serving on university committees, reviewing contracts, analyzing budgets, and tracking legislation. This demanding work is what enables Senate committees to function effectively and advance faculty interests. I value this work and have proven I can manage the organization and coordination required while keeping Senate focused on what matters most.

As your Senate President, I will continue to serve as both an official and unofficial advocate for faculty. I understand the complexities of university governance, and I'm ready to leverage that knowledge to ensure faculty voices are heard and respected in institutional decision-making. Together, we can build on our past successes and meet the challenges ahead with strategic, experienced leadership.

John Farrar, Ph.D.
2020-2024 Faculty Senate President
Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Floor Nomination(s) Statements:

Candidate Statements 2026-2027 Faculty Senate Vice President

Christine Perdan Curran

I currently serve as the Faculty Senate Vice-President and an at-large Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. I have been at NKU since 2008 and have enjoyed many opportunities to work collaboratively across units and colleges to support faculty, staff and students. In my role as VP, I led a working group to determine the best way to ensure strong faculty representation following the combination of many departments into larger schools. I continue to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee where I have advocated strongly for holistic budgeting to consider all costs and benefits prior to making major new investments or cuts. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in NKU's shared governance monthly meetings which provide excellent opportunities to advocate more effectively with a strong and unified voice. I look forward to continuing my service and making sure all faculty voices are heard and respected.

Christine Perdan Curran
Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the NKU Neuroscience Program

Floor Nominations Statements?

2026-2027 UCC Candidate Statements

Richard Fox

I suspect I could write two paragraphs of nonsense and still be elected as the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) chair as no one else wants to take the position coupled with the fact that there are few people on campus as knowledgeable about the curriculum process as I am. But here is my blurb anyway for anyone curious.

As a professor in the School of Computing and Analytics (SCA), I have played a senior role within my school (and previously the Department of Computer Science), the College of Informatics (COI) and the University as a whole. I have been a member of the UCC since 2002 and chair, member of the Faculty Senate executive committee and senator since 2011. As chair of the UCC, not only do I set the agendas and preside over our meetings but serve as an ex-officio member of the other curriculum-related committees (General Education Committee, Graduate Council and the college curriculum committees – excluding Chase) and act as a resource for faculty, program directors, chairs and deans to advise on curricular matters, answer questions on the curriculum process and assist with the UCC forms (via the Curriculog portal). I also assist with researching previous curricular changes by searching our archives of electronic curricular forms. Outside of my role on the UCC and senate, I regularly chair our program's RPT committee, serve on promotion committees, mentor junior faculty, SCA's policy committee, volunteer for several recruiting events every year (e.g., doing hands on AI-related activities with visiting high school students, Norse Days), chair the college's curriculum committee and serve on the COI program workgroup.

Nominee from floor statement:

Candidate Statements for 2026-2027 Faculty Senate Budget Committee Chair

Nathan De Lee

My name is Nathan De Lee and I am a professor of astronomy and physics in the department of Physics, Geology, and Engineering Technology. I have been a faculty member at NKU since 2014, and I have served as my department representative on the budget committee off and on since the Fall of 2016. In this role, I have seen many state budgets come and go, been involved with faculty surveys, and pushed for answers to hard questions as NKU has faced a number of budget challenges.

To be most useful to the faculty senate and the university as a whole, I believe the faculty senate budget committee should develop and provide a series of consistent metrics and plots to understand and evaluate NKU's fiscal health at any given point in the year. This would make it easier for new faculty joining the committee to become engaged, and it would make it easier for the committee to see long term changes as well as the needs of the moment. As a result, I have recently begun leading a subcommittee of the budget committee to develop those metrics and plots.

Beyond the overall fiscal health of the university, I would continue to push on our perennial questions of salaries, capital expenditures, etc.

Dr. Nathan De Lee
Professor of Astronomy and Physics
Northern Kentucky University

Darrin Wilson

I'm an Associate Professor of Public Administration in the Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Organizational Leadership. My teaching and research areas are public budgeting/finance, strategic planning, and community/economic development. I have conducted academic research on governmental cutback management and revenue diversification. Some examples of my service include Faculty Senate, Benefits Committee, College of Arts & Science Dean's Planning and Advising Committee, and my department's RPT Committee. I'm a strong believer in shared governance, and as NKU continues to face headwinds that challenge our fiscal health, it is now more important than ever to ensure the Faculty's voice is heard and understood with regard to budget and strategic decisions. As Budget Committee Chair, I will listen to the concerns of colleagues across campus and voice those concerns to the administration, advocate for more financial transparency, and develop ways to provide training to faculty interested in learning more about budgeting in higher education.

Dr. Darrin Wilson
Associate Professor of Public Administration
Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Organizational Leadership

Floor Candidate(s) statements?