

Be Involved in Your University Senate

Dear Colleagues:

As Chairs of the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 University Senate, we invite you to participate in University governance. As you know, the Senate and its Councils are the principal forum for discussing and improving the collective life of faculty, staff and students here at the University. There are several ways for you to become involved:

- Our website <http://www.albany.edu/senate/> provides a convenient way to find out what's going on in governance.
- All teaching and professional faculty at the University have one or more elected representatives on the Senate. Make sure that they know your views on the Senate's business. Tell them what you think should be the Senate's business.
- Most important of all, become active in governance by joining one of the Senate Councils or Committees.

The Councils and Committees are responsible for most of the Senate's work and are designed to give all teaching and professional faculty a voice in University policies. To ensure that these Councils serve their intended purpose, it is essential that a broad range of teaching and professional faculty participate.

Therefore, if you have never been involved in University governance, we invite you to take an active part in influencing the course of our University by joining a Council or a Committee. If you have been involved in the past, please consider renewing your commitment to the governance of the University.

Attached is a description of the various Senate Councils and Committees. For a full statement of each Council's charge, please visit the Senate web site, www.albany.edu/senate and read the new Charter of the University Senate, ratified by the Senate November, 2003. Council appointments are staggered two-year appointments.

Please respond by indicating your preferences for Council activities on the attached "pre addressed" return form at your earliest convenience, but no later than Friday, April 14, 2006. If you currently serve on a Council or Committee, we need you to reply if you wish to continue on that Council or Committee. No one who has served for more than 7 consecutive years is eligible for another term (except as *ex officio*).

The council compositions are narrowly specified and must be considered for diversity and academic balance. It would be much appreciated if you are willing, to consider other councils or committees if your first choices are not available.

We look forward to working with you during the coming 2006-2007 academic year. If at any time you wish to raise issues that you believe should be considered by the Senate, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Steven Messner
Chair, 2005-2006 University Senate

Diane Dewar
Chair, 2006-2007 University Senate