

Carolyn Colvin

I have been a faculty member at the University of Iowa's College of Education for eight years. As an associate professor, I have served on a variety of committees in the College, including my election to chair the College's Diversity Committee. At the University level, I have served on Liberal Arts Faculty Assembly since 1995, and as the College of Education's representative on Faculty Council and Faculty Senate since 1998.

Although I am fully committed to the Senate, I will admit to having been a rather reluctant nominee to the Senate a year ago because of the time commitment. Now that I have attended the meetings of the Council and Senate over the course of the last year I am persuaded of the critically important role the Senate and Council play in the life of this University and its faculty. I approach the Council and Senate meetings with a feeling of pleasant anticipation as each meeting offers its members a democratic forum to act as a voice for our colleagues, our College, and the University as a whole. Trite as it may seem, I maintain a healthy respect for the Senate responsibilities. At the same time, I believe we all ought to approach our service on the Senate tinged with a bit of caution and some skepticism as we work amidst issues of politics and competing interests. But we can do nothing less than to be dedicated faculty senators if we hope to retain our basic right of faculty governance. Faculty governance - clear-headed decision making informed by ongoing and effective communication with administrators, our colleagues, students, staff, and patrons - is the hallmark of a strong University system.

As an officer of the Faculty Senate, I would work to enhance and facilitate communication while emphasizing and supporting the Senate's decision-making process. I would work toward building a process that allows for all voices to be heard. It is my opinion that effective officers of the Senate are those individuals who serve as leaders by making visible the Faculty Senate at its best and, at its best, it is a strong and articulate group that requires strong and articulate leaders. It would be my goal to build a strong Senate by encouraging lively discussions around issues critical to the University's future.