

Candidate Statement

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If Joe Biden can run for president in his 70s, so can I.

For those who don't know me, I am an emeritus professor from the Maurer School of Law, where I have taught for 40 years. I am a second-generation academic. My father was a biochemistry professor who instilled in me the values, rewards and frustrations of academic life. When he found out I had accepted a faculty position at IU, he made me promise to do two things: join the AAUP and never become a dean. I have fulfilled those promises.

I have been involved one way or another in campus faculty governance since 2006. Over the years, I have served on many of the BFC committees, including Faculty Affairs, Educational Policy, Diversity, Constitution & Rules, the NTT task force, and the Faculty Board of Review. I am currently on the Policy Review Special Committee updating campus policies to reflect changes in university academic policies. In these roles, I have worked with faculty from all units across the campus and think I have gained a fairly good understanding of how the university works as a whole.

I previously served a term as president of the faculty in 2017-18, so I know what the position entails, what kind of time and effort is required and the importance of assuring that all campus constituencies have a voice in faculty governance. As an emeritus professor with minimal other commitments (and whose children have grown up and left home), I have the time to do the job.

The president of the Bloomington faculty also serves as co-chair of the University Faculty Council. For the past 5 years I have chaired the UFC Policy Review Committee which has been revising and updating over 70 university-wide academic policies. This is a collaborative process between faculty and the administration, so I already have an established working relationship with senior university and campus academic-affairs administrators.

I have a wonderful spouse who works at the IU Foundation, a son who is a stand-up comedian, and a daughter who is a PhD candidate in biology. I collect toy cars, enjoy birding, and am a track and field official at IHSAA and NCAA track meets. And I've also found time to keep up with my research, though perhaps at a lower publication rate than earlier in my career.

Although many of you may find it odd, I have enjoyed my service to the university and my role as an advocate for the importance of faculty in university governance. I think my experience, my institutional memory (and, yes, my age) would be valuable assets in moving the campus forward under a new Provost and Vice-Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs. I would be honored to serve as the next president of the faculty.