

Keith Landa - Vice President / Secretary, Candidate Statement

It has been an honor to serve the University Faculty Senate as Vice President / Secretary these past two years, and I want to thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for re-election. The Vice President / Secretary position plays a critical role in facilitating the operation of the Senate, between and at the Plenary sessions; archiving and promoting the work of the Senate both internally and externally; serving as liaison to various SUNY organizations and initiatives; and acting in place of the President at meetings as needed. Going forward, there are several priorities for the UFS that I would plan to pursue as Vice President / Secretary.

Senate Communications. We have been able to put in place a more functional redesign of the sunyufs.us website this past year. There is a much more user-friendly navigation architecture, and the consistent location of plenary planning information, proposed resolutions, committee reports, presentations by plenary speakers, and other plenary information should make it easier for our members to find the information that they need from the past two years of UFS activities. Membership information is displayed in a way that will make it easier for the UFS office, working with Senators and CGLs, to maintain an accurate directory of members. And the new website design allows us to prioritize rapid publication of plenary actions for members to take back to their campuses: approved resolutions, committee requests, key points from the President and invited SUNY guests, and other requested campus actions.

There is more to do in the area of communications, and going forward my priorities would be to apply the same user-focus to the archive UFS website at suny.edu; resurrect the *Bulletin* to take advantage of the web publishing format; and work with the Communications committee to develop a social media communications plan. The latter will be important for UFS to increase the effectiveness of its lobbying efforts, which should be another priority.

SUNY Issues. There are numerous SUNY initiatives underway where a system-wide governance perspective is critical, especially the multi-year effort to revise the SUNY general education principles and implement a new framework. I look forward to continuing my work on the Provost's General Education Advisory Committee, to represent our perspectives in these discussions. As Vice President / Secretary, I also represent the UFS on the Student Mobility Steering Committee, the SUNY Council on Assessment, and the SUNY Voices planning committee.

I am also the Purchase College liaison for a number of SUNY organizations, including Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology (FACT2); Center for Professional Development (CPD); the faculty development advisory group; Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Center; and the Open Educational Resources initiative. I am able to bring the UFS perspective to discussions within these groups, and a knowledge of what is happening across SUNY to our deliberations in the UFS Executive Committee and Senate meetings.

Senate Business. The business of the UFS is governance, largely represented through the resolutions we pass and the reports we produce. In my role as Vice President / Secretary, I have sought to effectively shepherd resolutions through the deliberations and approval process, by using live Google Docs along with clickers to facilitate discussion on the floor. Beyond just these logistical issues though, I have also sought to ensure representation of everyone's voice. While resolutions in the past have typically come from the standing committees of the Senate, we have begun to see more interest and activity in this area from the sectors, and from individuals speaking from the floor, actions which it is my role as Vice President / Secretary to help facilitate.

In my role as Parliamentarian at Purchase College, I have recently helped our campus governance structure move to remote meetings in response to the COVID-19 emergency. While we have only just recently completed a major revision to the UFS Bylaws and Standing Rules, I believe there is yet an opportunity for us to consider how some 21st Century approaches to meetings might improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UFS business, as long as we are thoughtful in our approaches. This is an area that I would look into for the coming term.

Again, I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the UFS as Vice President / Secretary this past term, and look forward to the coming term, should you all see fit to have me continue. Thank you. Keith Landa