

Chair of the Faculty remarks, October 7, 2022

Hello Colleagues,

I'm glad we found our way to Carrol Hall today. This is a new venue for us, and we are grateful to be able to convene here. I do not have extensive remarks today. We are happy to have both our Chancellor and Provost with us. You will, no doubt, want to hear from them and have time for questions. So that will be a priority.

I do want to remind you that nominations are still open for the Chair of the Faculty position. Remember that faculty governance is only as strong as those that participate in it. If you are nominated, please take that nomination seriously. Someone thought enough of you to take the time to put in a nomination, they believed that you could be an effective voice and representative. That is really quite an honor. So don't let the opportunity pass you by because you feel too busy at the moment the call comes in.

Of course, many people are quite cynical about the ability to make a difference through faculty governance. But having done this job for three years, when you commit yourself to it, that is not true. You can make a positive difference for your fellow faculty members in the ways you listen to their concerns, the way you represent them, and speak out on behalf of shared governance and the needs of faculty. As I look around this room and the rooms where committees I sit in meet, there are so many good-hearted, fascinating, wise colleagues that I never would have gotten to know if I'd not said yes when the call came to me. So please, put yourself or a colleague forward. We never know exactly who we will need to meet a particular moment, but the more choices Kenya McNeil Trice, chair of the advisory committee, and her fellow committee members have, the better the process and the outcome will be.

Our agenda is full. So, let's get to it. I appreciate you all being here both in person and in the hybrid space. As always, the hybrid world presents challenges sometimes, so bear with us if those challenges arise today.