

I am both honored and humbled to have been nominated to serve as your next Faculty President-Elect. As part of the faculty group, I had the opportunity to listen to the candidates for Chancellor describe UNC Charlotte and their consistent statements about how our university is poised for the next level, resonated with me. We discussed pursuing R-1 status, championing diversity, innovating through data science, emphasizing the importance of liberal arts and the humanities, and creatively supporting faculty, staff, and students despite a flat operating budget. I am confident that I can offer strong leadership in faculty governance to reach these goals.

Since joining the School of Social Work in 2009, I have served my college (CHHS) in several ways including: as a member of the College Review Committee, as a Diversity Fellow, and as College Curriculum Committee chair. I have supported our greater campus community: as a member of the Faculty Executive Committee, Faculty Council, and Graduate Council. I have also demonstrated solid service regionally as I helped found Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, currently co-chair the NC Disparities in Juvenile Justice state subcommittee, and am PI for the Charlotte Racial Justice Consortium (just awarded a national grant by the AAC&U). Over the last five years, I have been recognized nationally as a research fellow, locally for my leadership skills, and by CHHS with awards for both community engagement and promoting diversity.

Our campus family still grieves the events of April 30, 2019 and now we all recognize both small and larger uncertainties associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these trials, I firmly believe that together, we are Niner Strong. My leadership philosophy is drawn from this sense of community and collaboration and is centered in data-based decision-making, DAI (diversity, access, and inclusion), integrity, and a commitment to continuous improvement. I am eager to further serve our outstanding university as your next Faculty President-Elect and work together to build our brand and reach the next level.