

April 3, 2020

Dear Chair Dr. Allison Stedman and distinguished members of the Nominations, Honors, and Awards Committee of the UNC Charlotte Faculty Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to express interest in the Faculty President-Elect position. These are incredibly uncertain times for our University and we are experiencing unprecedented levels of change including new leadership (expected) and new ways of operating (unexpected because of COVID-19). We will have an economic climate that may be the most challenging in our lifetimes that will put tremendous stress on our budgets. To help weather the storm, we are witnessing leaders throughout our University community step up and offer leadership. Times like these require all hands-on deck. As I have been reflecting on pathways which I can deepen my service, I believe that leadership of the Faculty Council is a good fit for my leadership skill set. My extensive governance experience, strong problem-solving skills, and excellent communication capabilities will help to facilitate collaborative and efficient faculty governance and provide effective advocacy for faculty and students when needed.

I offer extensive experience in faculty and political governance which are two critical contexts for the Faculty President. On campus, I served three terms on the College of Education Faculty Council, two terms as Secretary. I currently serve as the COED alternate to the University Faculty Council. From 2011-12, I served as chair of the Faculty Council Ad Hoc Committee on Part-time Faculty voice which passed a resolution which developed the Part-time Faculty Committee and the Part-time Faculty Handbook. In the community, I am an elected official on the Mecklenburg County Commission representing 200,000 residents and responsible for a \$1.9 billion budget funding all of the Mecklenburg County human services including overseeing the COVID-19 effort. Because of this role, I have developed a strong network of politically connected colleagues in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the NC Legislature, and the UNC Board of Governors. I retire from the County Commission in November 2020. As a community engaged scholar, I also have an extensive network of relationships within the community. I co-led a diverse faculty, student, and staff involved team to create the University's Civic Action Plan. Through these experiences, I have successfully marshalled the work of faculty and political governance, created policy, developed budgets, mobilized teams, and maintained broad relationships which will benefit the work of the council and the advocacy inherent in this role.

Furthermore, I offer strong problem-solving and communication skills. For example, as a Mecklenburg County Commissioner in FY 19/20, I worked with colleagues to increase K-12 public teacher pay to the highest level provided by any county in the state. Also, I publish a newsletter twice a week and host a nightly online program on Facebook and Instagram. These problem-solving and communication skills will be especially beneficial during periods of change and uncertainty.

My approach is to be an optimistic, collaborative, persistent, accessible, and listening leader. It will be important to establish the voice of the faculty as critical as we undergo new leadership. I will be that strong voice. I also have problem solving and management skills that will efficiently and effectively manage the work of the council.

Thank you for this opportunity. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Susan B. Harden, Associate Professor of Education