

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

It is with genuine excitement and a profound sense of commitment that I share my candidacy for election as your Faculty Trustee on the University Board of Trustees. Over the past 16 years, I have witnessed the effectiveness of our university community when the faculty are at the table in collaborative shared governance. The Board of Trustees, by law, serves as the governing body of the University, and thus is the final authority in all matters affecting the institution and exercises jurisdiction over the institution's financial, educational, and other policies and its relation with state and federal governments. As faculty members ourselves, the faculty trustees are uniquely able to advocate for those policies and initiatives that benefit the entire academic community. I would be honored to add my strong voice of faculty representation to this critically important body.

As the Chair of the University Senate Council, I am able to see the pivotal roles of our faculty members in shaping the academic experience daily. In this capacity, I exercise opportunities to actively promote institutional inclusion of faculty in a wide array of shared governance venues. In overseeing the daily and long-term functions of the University Senate, Senate Council, and their committees, I've facilitated their demonstration of timely decision-making and have spearheaded innovative initiatives that foster excellence through inclusion. I believe in the power of open communication, transparency, and inclusive decision-making processes that involve faculty, students, staff, and administrators. My collaborative approach as an elected academic leader is to engage with colleagues and administrators in translating goals into action. I have actively engaged with faculty members from all colleges and disciplines across the university, ensuring that the full spectrum of concerns and aspirations of faculty are heard and considered. I will continue in these efforts and philosophy as your Faculty Trustee so that I am best able to represent your interests and work towards creating a supportive and empowering environment for everyone.

Integrity and accountability are not just principles to me; they are the essence of our shared journey. If you elect me as a Faculty Trustee, I will pledge to bring unwavering honesty and transparency to every facet of our University's governance. I will continue to foster a culture where we thrive and where our actions are a testament to our dedication to the core values that define us. Through your vote, I seek the opportunity to be your advocate, your collaborator, and your voice on the University Board of Trustees. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

DeShana Collett, PhD, PA-C

DeShana Collett, Ph.D., PA-C
Chair University Senate Council and Professor
University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences
Department of Physician Assistant Studies
<https://www.uky.edu/chs/dagrav0>