

Here's a summary of my background so you can judge for yourself whether I could represent your own interests:

I'm one of the few people I know of who has held significant appointments in research, teaching and Extension; I've also worked in industry. During my teaching career I've taught sixteen different courses; I've chaired advisory committees for fifteen theses and dissertations. Some of my research publications have won national awards from my peers, and some of my outreach programs have earned awards from the USDA as well as from statewide organizations. I've been at UK with a faculty appointment as an Extension Specialist in the Forestry Department for just over ten years. I was elected by my College to our Ag Faculty Council, and in the following year I was elected to be the Chair of that group. I'm currently in my second term as a senator representing the College of Agriculture, and I serve on the Library committee. I teach a couple weeks each year, but mostly I work with industry, professional organizations and the general public (adults and youth programs) in every part of the state. I was a faculty member with a teaching/research appointment in the Forest Products Department at another land-grant university, Mississippi State University, for about nine years before I came here. I was a member of the MSU Fine Arts committee that brought live performances to Starkville; we had few resources, but I tried to make a contribution to the lives of students from the many small towns that make up Mississippi.

I've worked as a Research Manager at Kimberly-Clark and I also taught, did research, and collaborated with industry at the Institute of Paper Chemistry, an industry-supported, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools-accredited institution that specialized in pulp and paper chemistry and engineering. My industrial experience has given me a background in corporate research planning, management and budgeting, cooperative business contracts, product safety, product testing and marketing strategy, and employee development and evaluation. I've supervised scientists from literally all over the world; I have seen first-hand how diversity enhances working and social environments and promotes successful problem solving – and I refer not just to racial or ethnic diversity, but also to diversity of income, of culture and professional background. With my experience, I believe I can represent the interests of all of us well.