

I'm putting myself forward as a candidate for the faculty representative to the UK Board of Trustees because I'd rather work to fix problems than meekly accept what I'm given. Effective faculty representation on the Board is crucial.

I've visited with faculty from all over UK, and more meetings are upcoming. No one likes our business model; some are vigorous in their opposition, but most seem resigned to its continuation because of the "top-down" management we've endured for the past umpteen years. It's obvious that change is needed.

Finances and infrastructure needs will be difficult problems for several years ahead, but money shouldn't drive the direction of the university; I am particularly concerned about the potential effects of changes being discussed in our budgeting process. We need to recommit to valuing teaching at least as much as graduation and retention rates and research. The faculty must communicate that more ambitious vision of what we should be to the BoT.

Frankly, unless we value all of our land-grant missions and act accordingly, what is there to distinguish us from the University of Louisville (besides a better basketball team)? The direction of the university cannot be driven by a view of the bottom line as seen through a keyhole.

These concerns need faculty input and BoT action. You can read a longer statement at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/forestryextension/botstatement.php>.

I have the Alumni Gallery next to the Young Library Auditorium reserved this Thursday, 1/26 from 1 to 3 p.m. Please drop by and speak with me.