

I am an institutional historian of the Byzantine Empire, and unsurprisingly, there are parallels between UK's and the Byzantine bureaucracy. But my experiences during my 27 years at UK have convinced me that the UK faculty *has* a collective power that remains untapped and that united we *can* deal with the bureaucracy successfully. I believe that the organizational skills that I have brought to my discipline can help us mobilize faculty and allow both faculty trustees to speak in a strong and unified voice that truly represents the faculty. Academics are notoriously fractious people, but now we must speak as one. In this way, we can effect change.

I have actively campaigned for faculty issues. When cuts in retired faculty medical benefits were proposed, I personally collected nearly 300 faculty signatures. When former President Wethington was rehired despite passing the age of retirement, I was one of the faculty who prepared and circulated the petition demanding enforcement of the legal restrictions on his tenure. I fully supported the efforts of my wife, Prof. Alice Christ, and my colleagues Profs. Black and Yanarella in the most recent faculty petition drive over the budget cuts and lack of administrative transparency and accountability.

I received my B.A. at the University of California, my Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, and have been a proud member of U.K. faculty since 1985. My teaching has been recognized with two awards, and my scholarship has been recognized by my peers who elected me twice to the governing board of my disciplinary organization (the Byzantine Studies Association of North America) and as its President. Indeed, I chaired the committee that wrote the by-laws of BSANA.

I have served on several university councils and committees, as well as on Fulbright selection boards for Germany and those for the NEH and other institutions. However, I am committed not only to my university as an institution, but to my colleagues. I was the head of the Academic Freedom Committee of the UK AAUP chapter where I did my utmost to help faculty members address problematic issues of tenure and promotion. I am proud that my wife currently chairs the UK AAUP's chapter.

Over the years, I have watched with dismay as decisions that affect departments and programs are taken with only token faculty consultation. The rights and responsibilities given to the faculty in the governing regulations are not taken seriously. But most faculty spend their entire careers at U.K. and have a greater stake in our university than hired consultants and transient administrators who just add notches to their resumes for their next job application. The faculty needs to be heard and it can unite. I am a candidate because I believe that with your support and guidance, trustee Voro and I can present to the board – or anyone that needs to hear our faculty's collective voice – a united, strong and effective message.