

Election Statement from Alan DeSantis

We find ourselves at an exciting, but precarious, moment in our university's history. Many of the traditional assumptions about higher education are under review. Perhaps the most important discussion is the definition of "*students*."

Will they become "*consumers*" or "*on-line shoppers*?" Given new business models, will they become "*numbers*" in mass lectures or "*tenants*" in new private residence halls? On more optimistic days, we also hear thoughtful talk of students as "*research collaborators*" with us and "*full-time learners*" in our living and learning programs.

These questions are particularly interesting because the answer will, by the very nature of our relational configuration, also define us, as professors.

After two decades of living and learning with many of you, it is apparent that none of us want to become "*proprietors*," "*land lords*," "*comptrollers*," or "*on-line gatekeepers*."

Unfortunately, the voices of professors are often muted in such "business" discussions. If elected, I will serve as a responsible and dignified voice in this on-going conversation that is re-defining conceptions of "*students*" and "*professors*" at UK.

Other issues of special concern include the following:

- 1) Reaffirming our commitment to research and graduate education in our struggle to balance our undergraduate teaching mission.
- 2) Protecting the future of full-time tenure-track professors.
- 3) Continuing to question whether our enthusiastic adoption of on-line education is the best answer to the complex problems facing our university.
- 4) Fighting for affordable education in the Commonwealth. With tuition now more than \$10,000 per year, attending UK for many is already an unattainable financial goal.