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Dear colleagues,

I have been one of your faculty trustees for three years now, and, after careful consideration, I've decided to run for one more term. Why? Because I believe I can continue to be an effective advocate for faculty concerns on the Board of Trustees. I believe that I've earned the trust and respect of the appointed trustees as someone who is willing to speak his mind, whether it is in support of or against the policy being discussed. I've striven to be frank but respectful and critical without being unnecessarily confrontational. I've also always made a special effort to bring the academic priorities of the University to the forefront of discussions among Board members.

I believe I also have a productive relationship with the President and his direct reports. I have occasionally been critical enough of their decisions to make them angry with me, but I've always tried to make clear that I understand that we are all trying to move the University forward, even when we disagree on the best way to do that.

I've tried hard to listen to faculty concerns and to convey those concerns to the administration when it was appropriate. I have attended nearly every Senate Council and Senate meeting over the last three years. My fellow Trustee, Lee Blonder, and I sought invitations to all of the listening sessions that the President and Provost had with the faculty of the different colleges this past fall, and we attended all those that we could do. I'm proud of having helped the faculty respond to the current US President's executive orders on immigration. I'm also proud of the roles I have played in the revision of the Student Code of Conduct and in the University's response to the legitimate concerns of its African-American students.

The University will continue to face challenges over the next few years. The Commonwealth is in the process of implementing a version of performance-based funding. I believe that UK is well-positioned to benefit under the new system, or at least not to lose, but we will have to see how it plays out. The climate in Washington is creating huge unknowns right now for all sectors of the University, and, as a result, the medical center, the basic sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and the creative arts are all facing challenges. Closer to home, the University will continue to struggle with the proper balance of privacy and transparency, especially in cases of sexual misconduct, and the best way to manage the very small number of cases of faculty who abuse their authority either financially or in their relations with students. We also need to continue to work to convince the public that the purpose of college is more than just training students for jobs, and that even academic fields that some deem "not practical" are worthy of support.

Thank you for your support in the first round of voting, and I hope you'll choose me to be your faculty trustee for one more term.

Regards,

Bob Grossman