

Aaron M. Cramer

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Statement

I have served our institution as Chair of the University Senate Council since 2020, leading the University Senate and the faculty broadly through the most trying two-year period in recent memory. The last few years have taught me much about our institution, its opportunities and challenges, and how it is governed. I have advocated for you, my faculty colleagues, during difficult times, sometimes quietly to find a way forward and sometimes more publicly when circumstances required it. I have written to you regularly to try to support you, to inform you, and to empower you. I have met and interacted with the members of the Board of Trustees at their meetings, which I attend to represent you. Given what I have learned and the leadership I have demonstrated, I am asking you to let me serve you again, this time as faculty trustee.

When colleagues asked me to consider running for trustee, I thought carefully about what makes a good trustee and how my experiences align with this role. A good trustee must:

- View the University broadly, well beyond just the perspective of a single college.
- Be familiar with the broader context of higher education and how UK can thrive in the current environment.
- Build relationships with other Board members to help ensure that the Board works together for the good of the institution.

Perhaps most importantly, a good trustee must understand the governance of the University deeply and be prepared to perform the fiduciary duties of a trustee.

These are the qualities I have developed through university-level service and leadership in recent years. Leading the Senate Academic Programs Committee and ushering program proposals from across UK through the curricular approval process was my first real experience in this kind of leadership. This sort of service requires a deep understanding of the University, its faculty, and its curriculum as a whole, a precise knowledge of its regulations and structures, broad awareness of the higher education landscape, and diplomacy in the midst of difficult discussions. Because of my leadership as chair of the Senate Academic Programs Committee, I was elected to the Senate Council, the executive body of the University Senate, and ultimately elected as Senate Council Chair to lead UK's primary faculty shared governance body. During the last two years as Senate Council Chair, I have continued to advocate faithfully for the faculty across the institution.

My unique experiences in service, leadership, and governance have provided me with the expertise and perspective that will enable me to serve you well on the Board of Trustees. I am asking for the opportunity to represent you as faculty trustee. If you believe that my qualifications and motivations match what UK needs in a faculty trustee, I encourage you to vote for me and to urge your colleagues to do the same.

Biography

Aaron Cramer grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. He was raised in a family of University of Louisville alumni and fans, but he quickly became a Wildcat fan when he met his high school sweetheart Jennifer (now wife of nearly 18 years with four wonderful children). Jennifer's family members are dedicated Kentucky fans, and it became clear that Aaron had to make a choice. He chose well, becoming a Kentucky fan and enrolling in UK after high school.

He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UK in 2003 and his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 2007. After completing his doctorate, he worked in industry for several years. When he had the chance to join UK as a faculty member in 2010, he was most grateful for the opportunity to give back to his alma mater and come home.

Aaron's research interests lie primarily in the broad area of power and energy. Specifically, he focuses on the simulation, control, and optimization of power and energy systems, including electric machinery, power electronics, and power systems. He was selected as an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator in 2015.

Aaron has been a successful teacher at UK, winning departmental and college teaching awards over the course of his tenure. He teaches upper-level courses in power systems, electric machinery, and power electronics. He has also successfully led his department's graduate programs as Director of Graduate Studies of Electrical Engineering until he stepped down to lead the University Senate in 2020.

In addition to his service to his profession, Aaron's institutional service contributions are extensive. He has served as Chair of the University Senate Council since 2020, leading the University Senate through most of the pandemic. In this role, he has served as a representative of the faculty on numerous committees and workgroups. He also represents faculty in interactions with the Board of Trustees, the President, the Provost, and other senior administrative leaders. Prior to being elected University Senate Council Chair, he served in the Senate Council beginning in 2019 and in the University Senate beginning in 2017. In the Senate, Aaron served as chair of the Senate Academic Programs Committee for two years during the period of significant academic program expansion associated with Our Path Forward, where he developed a more global view of the diversity in curriculum, perspectives, and concerns among UK's 19 colleges. In recognition of his service contributions, he received the College of Engineering Excellence in Service Award in 2020.