

Slate of Candidates for the 2023-2024 Chair-Elect
Submitted by the Senate Nominations Committee

Chair-Elect Nominees (One will be Elected)

- Gene Ferrick Director of Operations College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences
- Jordan Sly Librarian III University Libraries

Candidacy Statements for the Chair-Elect 2023-2024 Election

Chair-Elect Nominees (One will be Elected)

**Gene Ferrick, Director of Operations, Dean's Office
College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences**



My passion for the success of our institution and maintaining a high quality of life for our university community drives my desire to be the Senate Chair-elect. My time at the University of Maryland spans 43 years beginning as a student in the College of Arts & Humanities, then holding various positions within UMD, eventually joining the staff of the VP for Academic Affairs and Provost in 1991. It was there that I began working with the Senate by staffing the Senate PCC Committee and its sub-committee VPAC. I soon volunteered and became a member of the Senate Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee.

In 1997, I joined the Dean's staff in the ever-evolving Colleges of Life Sciences, then Chemical & Life Sciences, and finally Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences. All the while, I continued to be engaged with the Senate as a committee member or a senator.

In addition to multiple terms as a senator, more effort has been given as a committee member and sometime chair of Campus Affairs, Staff Affairs, and ERG, as well as a member of the Senate Executive Committee, Student Affairs, the Campus Transportation Advisory Committee, the Committee on Committees, and the Athletic Council.

The tinkering aspects of my job range from student support to policy review to data mining, included advising students and teaching Freshmen; coordinating events such as Maryland Day and Bioscience Day; being a member of campus committees such as the Diversity Plan Steering Committee or the Data Policy Advisory Committee; evaluating program and course proposals; and analyzing data to prepare reports.

Some of the days of greater fun include advising a student group and a sorority, assisting with the summer orientation camping expedition program, and being a part of the peer consulting network through the Office of Organizational Effectiveness.

The broad spectrum of my work and service conferred on me wonderful and important experiences. More than that, I have developed a network of peers that include students, administrators, faculty, and staff across the campus who can offer opinions and guidance concerning the numerous issues that come before the Senate. If elected and with support from you, I will continue the cooperative and collegial environment between the Senate and the University administration that we have worked hard to achieve. I will champion the issues that concern our vibrant community as I have done in the past during many years of work with the University Senate.

Jordan Sly, Librarian III
University Libraries



I am thrilled and honored to be nominated for the position of Chair-Elect of the University of Maryland Senate. We are extraordinarily lucky at our university to have such a robust, effective, and inclusive senate body. Shared governance is a vital component of higher education and our senate stands far and above those of our fellow institutions. If elected I will strive to serve the entire campus community and continue the Senate's vital role as a conduit between students, faculty, staff, and the campus administration and ensure equitable

access to all within our community to the privileges of shared governance.

I have been proud to serve the senate beginning with my appointment on the Programs, Curricula, and Courses committee (2017-19). Through this committee I witnessed the ways our combined expertise and shared values were actuated through the considered, careful, and importantly inclusive conversations to improve the educational experience for our students. Following that, I was elected to a faculty senate seat by my constituents in the University Libraries in 2021. In this capacity I have served on the Committee on Committees (2021-23), the Student Conduct Committee (2022-24), and importantly the Senate Executive Committee to which I was elected for terms from 2021-22 and 2022-23.

In my time on the Senate, I have vocally advocated for items of great importance to our campus such as the library-led PACT program for inclusive publication practices. Additionally, in the Senate Executive Committee, I have advocated many times on behalf of my constituents when items of discussion have a direct impact on the libraries. As an affiliated faculty member of the university's College of Information, too, I have also voiced concerns relating to the teaching and learning operations and student and faculty well-being. As a former student and life-long Terp, I have advocated on behalf of alumni/ae, future Terps, and families as I truly and thoroughly believe in our importance as a life-changing institution with the real power to do great things for our state, our local community, and our country through the development of highly competitive and engaged citizens and future leaders.

The period of time in which I have served on the Senate has been a tumultuous one, but also one of great hope as we have successfully navigated the depths of the pandemic and have emerged, in many ways, a stronger organization. Looking ahead, there are many challenges still to confront, and the Senate will have many important and impactful votes to consider in the immediate future. As Chair-Elect I will work closely with Chair Jarzynski, Past-Chair Newman, and the Senate leadership office to ensure the successful consideration and voting of all Senate matters.

I have been with the University Libraries since 2016 where I have earned my permanent status (libraries' equivalent of tenure at the associate level) and where I currently lead the humanities and social sciences librarian team as the unit head. I earned my BA from the University of Maryland in

2008 before pursuing my other degrees at both other institutions and returning to UMD. My research and teaching have been very student focused as I have published papers on the first-generation student experience and non-traditional student experiences. Additionally, I have published on faculty related concerns such as work on academic and intellectual freedom and the problems of data-driven publication models in addition to my general research in seventeenth-century global history and digital humanities. When I first came to campus I fell in love, both with my wife (UMD '07) and with our beautiful campus and the close-knit community I was able to find here despite the large campus size. This institution has become more than a workplace for my wife, two young children, and me as I share with them the cultural, intellectual, athletic, and other treasures that we are lucky to participate in and I am proud to serve the University as a member of the Senate and honored to be considered as candidate for leadership.

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for the Senate Chair-Elect position. If elected, I will work with my Senate colleagues to continue our reputation for excellence in shared governance and continue to build on our commitments of meeting our university's grand challenges through equity, inclusion, and transparency and to connect the concerns of our community with the outcomes of our shared mission and goals.