

FIELD NOTES

from the Faculty Senate President

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Colleagues,

Welcome back for Fall 2026! I hope the summer provided you space for rest and preparation for the year ahead.

This inaugural issue launches *Field Notes*, a brief monthly memo I will share during the fall and spring semesters. Alongside formal Senate communications, I offer these notes to make my work and my representation of faculty across the university as Faculty Senate President more visible, provide context for governance efforts, reflect on questions shaping faculty life, and invite your continued engagement.

Here's what I've been up to since May...

Preparing the Senate for the Year Ahead

Starting in May, I focused on helping the Senate begin the year ready to work. That has included collaborating with Liz Goodnick on the leadership transition; working with officers, committee chairs, and Senate staff; reviewing the Senate budget and support for major service roles; reviewing committee membership; preparing agendas and governance tools; and readying policy and curriculum priorities for fall. I am also beginning to coordinate Faculty Senate committees' priorities so faculty service is clear, supported, consequential, and valued.

Bringing Faculty Expertise into University Decisions

I have represented faculty in conversations with Interim President Carpenter, Provost Makley and the Provost's Leadership Team, as well as university budget and strategy groups and leaders. Those discussions have addressed enrollment, compensation, budget priorities, academic program strategy, experiential learning, online education, and generative AI. The aim is earlier faculty influence: bringing our expertise and varied perspectives into conversations while options remain open.

Faculty at the Drawing Board on AI

In May I designed *Drawing Board Day*, and then in June, with Sam Jay and Jenny Allert, I led the daylong summit of faculty from across campus on high-quality teaching and learning in the age of AI. Participants brought creativity, resilience, candor, and genuine collaboration to a challenge already reshaping our classrooms and disciplines.

Several messages came through clearly. Faculty need resources and opportunities to build new skills and pursue pedagogical innovation as AI rapidly changes the teaching environment. They need leadership support and coherent frameworks connecting choices made by individual instructors, departments, programs, and the university. They also need recognition of and investment in the time and expertise required to rethink assignments, redesign courses and curricula, adapt pedagogy, and prepare students thoughtfully.

We are taking those messages seriously. The day's work is informing plans with faculty and Academic Affairs leaders for development opportunities, practical supports, and a more coherent university response. Sam, colleagues across Academic Affairs and other branches, and I will have more to share as that work develops.

What Guides This Work

These activities give concrete form to the four leadership commitments I shared as a candidate: *Stewardship* means preparing the Senate to function well. *Advocacy* means carrying the range of faculty perspectives into consequential decisions. *Collaboration* means creating spaces where faculty and others can shape solutions together. *Alignment* means connecting academic priorities with student success, respect for faculty, and the whole university's long-term strength.

Field Notes memos will continue to share what I am seeing, what I am working on, and where faculty engagement can shape what comes next. I welcome your questions, concerns, and ideas.

I look forward to beginning this work together. Best wishes for the start of the fall term.

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