

The Faculty Senate passed the following resolution at Meeting #158 on April 6, 2009:

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the UAF Faculty Senate ratifies the election of Catherine Cahill as President-Elect of the UAF Faculty Senate for 2009-2010 by affirmation.

BALLOT  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

  X   Cathy Cahill

Marsha Soum 4-6-09  
President, UAF Faculty Senate Date

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Catherine F. Cahill, Associate Professor of Chemistry

I am delighted and honored to be nominated for the position of President-Elect of the UAF Faculty Senate. As a tripartite faculty member with a joint appointment between the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and the Geophysical Institute, I feel I understand the needs of faculty conducting the important instructional, research and/or service missions of the university. I believe we can use shared governance to support UAF's faculty and academic programs, retain and highlight UAF's preeminence as the University of Alaska's research and Ph.D. granting campus, ensure the success of our students, and make the upcoming accreditation process as successful, and painless, as possible.

I have been a faculty member at UAF for 10 years and served on Faculty Senate for more than 5 years. During my time in Faculty Senate, I have chaired both the Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee (May 2005-May 2007) and the Faculty Affairs Committee (2008-present). Because I have chaired these two, very different, committees, I am well aware of the diversity of topics handled by the Faculty Senate and the importance of the Standing and Permanent Committees to the success of faculty and academic programs. I believe that we are going to need the full diversity of Faculty

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Senate to ensure a successful accreditation process and to demonstrate our position as the premier, Ph.D.-granting institution in the University of Alaska system.

I am a hereditary academic. Both of my parents taught at the University of California, Davis. This environment showed me both the joys and the challenges of being a faculty member. In spite of the challenges facing professors, I decided that I wanted to become a professor and dedicate my life to teaching, research and service. With that goal in mind I received my B.S. in Applied Physics from the University of California, Davis (1990), my M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington (1994) and my Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute (1996). After a Fulbright Fellowship to University College, Galway, Ireland, and a stint as a Visiting Assistant Research Professor at the Desert Research Institute, I took up my current position as a faculty member at UAF. Since coming to UAF, I have taught courses ranging from general chemistry and chemistry for non-science majors through physical chemistry to graduate atmospheric sciences and environmental chemistry. I have graduated both Ph.D. and M.S. students and received a UAF award for outstanding undergraduate advising (2002). I have also successfully competed for external funding and participated in public, professional and university service.

I believe that UAF is an outstanding, and underappreciated, university. We need to work to highlight our successes and showcase the excellent education we give our students. UAF faculty must communicate our value to the people of the State of Alaska more effectively. Shared governance will assist us in these efforts. Also, as we prepare for our upcoming accreditation, shared governance will be vital for charting the course for UAF, determining our accreditation goals and laying out milestones toward attaining those goals. I look forward to tackling these challenges with you.