

Debasmita (Debu) Misra

Statement of Candidature for President-Elect of UAF Faculty Senate

I am a Professor of Geological Engineering in the College of Engineering and Mines. I earned my Ph.D. in 1994 from the University of Minnesota. After 3 years of postdoc, 2 years as term faculty in Michigan Technological University and 2+ years in the industry, I joined University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2002 as an Assistant Professor. I was tenured and promoted as Associate Professor in 2007 and promoted to Full Professor in 2012. I teach both undergraduate and graduate level courses in Geological Engineering and my area of interest and proficiency is in the general area of Hydrology and Hydraulic Processes, which includes non-isothermal multiphase fluid flow and transport in porous media, characterization of georesources and subsurface hydraulic properties, numerical methods and artificial intelligence applications, remote sensing and geophysical methods. My research has been focused on hydraulic processes in terrestrial and nearshore coastal environments in cold climates. I serve as an Associate Editor/Editorial Board of 5 journals and was the guest editor of a special edition on erosion and landscape evolution in 2011-12. I usually review 5-6 manuscripts from various journals per year and serve/have served in leadership roles in professional societies that I am affiliated with. I have organized an international symposium in 2011 in Anchorage. I have continuous service record in various leadership capacities in the University and College committees in UAF.

I have accepted the candidacy for the Faculty Senate President-Elect for 2014-15 because I feel honored by multiple nominations from our current faculty senators and also I believe strongly that **Faculty Senate leadership is critical in the shared governance structure of the university.** Shared governance is three-pronged with the Faculty Alliance and its associated Faculty Senates, UA and its affiliated campus Administration and the Board of Regents. Hence, leadership in the Faculty Senates and the Alliance is vital to ensure quality higher education for students and outreach to the constituent communities, cutting-edge research and creative activities that contributes to new knowledge and creates interest in life-long learning and outstanding service to the public and profession that helps in serving the local, regional and international communities through education and growth.

The primary goal of shared governance is to work together in **fulfilling the mission of the university and to develop vision for pragmatic changes and solutions to improve the future of the university.** As an engineer, I have learned how to build and I value working in teams trying to build the future of our next generation through quality education. This is the value of the Academy. I have been contributing to this goal since I have joined UAF. The university has a responsibility to sustain the value of the Academy. **There are no challenges that cannot be overcome through proper input, planning and execution.** As a leader of the faculty senate/alliance in UAF, I intend to work with the Administration and the Board of Regents in overcoming challenges so that we as faculty can focus on retaining and improving the value of UAF.

My service in the faculty senate began as a Faculty Senate Alternate from 2004 – 2007. During this period, I served as a member of the Unit Criteria Committee (UCC) from 2004 – 2005, Co-Chair of the UCC from 2005 – 2006 and Chair of the UCC and a member of the Faculty Senate Administrative Committee from 2006 – 2007. I have also served as a member of the Faculty Senate Curricular Review Committee from 2007 – 2011. I have served as a member of the Provost's Program Review Committee for Natural Resources Management program in 2006-07 and for Geological Engineering program in 2007-08. I was elected to the Faculty Senate in 2013 and I am still serving as a member of the UCC. In short, I have a long record of connection with the faculty senate and I am continuing to maintain it.

I have always been an advocate for women and diversity, shared governance, tenure and academic freedom. **I value democracy and friendly & healthy competitions.** A faculty senate will be healthy when senators compete to lead it or serve on its various critical committees. We should tap on the expertise or background of a senator to contribute to the various policies, resolutions and operating procedures that are developed to strengthen the value of the university and fulfil its mission appropriately. Faculty senate leaders should continuously engage with the administration and the Board of Regents in a mutually respectful and professional manner. I believe that the most important role of the faculty senate is to have continuous communication channels with the members of the faculty and seek their input either directly or through their senators. I am a candidate for the President-elect in strong support of the values that proliferates quality education. **I will appreciate your support in my candidacy for the office of the President-elect.**