

## **Michael Chajes Statement**

I would consider it an honor and privilege to serve as faculty senate president. I have been on the faculty at UD for 25 years and have a wide range of experience to bring to this position. My highest priority would be to strengthen shared governance and to identify “big issues” and work collaboratively and systematically to address them.

During my career at UD I have had the pleasure of serving as a faculty member, an associate chair, a chair, a dean, and a member of the faculty senate. My combined academic and administrative experience helps me to understand and appreciate the breadth of issues on our campus.

My service as co-chair of the committee overseeing the University’s 2011 Middle States accreditation review allowed me to develop an appreciation for programs across campus. I have been actively involved in developing and presenting resolutions to the senate to preserve our commitment to sustainability and to ensure that we are paying proper attention to the issue of sexual misconduct. I am committed to ensuring intellectual and cultural diversity. My involvement in UD’s NSF ADVANCE efforts provides one example of where I have worked with colleagues to try to move UD forward in this very important area.

The most important thing we can do to make UD better is to develop an ecosystem where good ideas can more easily take root and blossom. This requires active and open discussion between all campus constituents, collaborative problem solving, and transparent decision making. This is, by definition, shared governance.

Those that know me are aware of my willingness to serve on a team and take on difficult issues. If elected, I will establish open “office hours” at a convenient time and location so people can share their thoughts and ideas with me. Finally, I will work tirelessly to continue to strengthen the faculty senate and to make UD the best academic institution it can be.

## **Prasad Dhurjati: Senate President Statement**

The role of faculty in a great University is to motivate and inspire bright young minds via teaching and to create *new* knowledge via excellence in research and scholarship. A most important additional faculty role is to participate in institutional governance. Maintaining academic excellence is a shared responsibility and cannot just be delegated to the administration.

During my thirty-three year career at the University of Delaware, I have taken the responsibility of service very seriously. My candidacy for Senate Presidency responds to the sense of continuing responsibility for the institution. In the past two years, I had the privilege of serving the Senate as Secretary and Vice President. My Senate service includes the Senate Budget Committee, the Senate Executive Committee, the Senate Ad-Hoc committee on Responsibility-Based Budgeting (RBB), the Senate International Studies

Committee and the Senate Rules Committee. In addition, I founded the Senate Newsletter and continue to serve as its Editor-in-chief. I have recently served on the Provost CNTT commission that was set up as a result of a Senate resolution. My service on the Senate ad-hoc committee on RBB was motivated by faculty surveys that indicated pent-up frustration with a budget model that fueled polarization and low morale among faculty. The recommendations of the Senate RBB committee led to the creation of the Provost RBB committee on which I also served. The Provost RBB committee asserted the importance of greater “openness and transparency” in budgetary matters. In all of my committee activities, I have worked diligently to build consensus among individuals with diverse points of view.

While the University is organized by artificial boundaries of disciplines, departments and colleges, it is important to be able to look out for the good of the University as a whole and not just one’s narrow disciplinary tribe. The Senate *is* the place where unity in diversity can be achieved given the right blend of leadership and vision along with respect and stewardship for every segment of the University community. My hope is to continue to transform the Senate into an institution that fosters greater understanding between faculty and administrators, teachers and researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, the humanities and engineering, and those who have research funding and those who do not. This can only happen in a University where faculty feel empowered to participate to the best of their abilities in the shared academic mission of excellence in teaching, research and scholarship. If elected as Senate President, I will work to pursue these goals for the betterment of the institution with energy, enthusiasm, conviction and commitment.

I have a record of excellence in undergraduate teaching, research and service in a high-quality department. We have published over one hundred research papers at the interface of many disciplines including chemical engineering, life sciences, mathematical sciences, computer science, and medicine. I was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering in 2004 and received the Presidential Young Investigator Award from President Ronald Reagan in 1986. More information on my experience and commitment to the University of Delaware can be obtained from my web site: <http://www.che.udel.edu/dhurjati>