

## **Statement regarding candidacy for Chair, Professional Standards Committee**

**Kenneth B. Peter**

**May 2, 2014**

I would welcome the opportunity to continue as Chair of the Professional Standards Committee.

I am proud of the record of accomplishments of the Professional Standards Committee under my leadership over the last two years. We have done a complete weeding of sixteen obsolete policies for which PS is responsible, we have modernized and consolidated our nine teaching evaluation policies into one clearer document, we have done an important study highlighting the critical need to rebuild our declining base of permanent faculty, and we have proposed policies to overhaul our ethics board and the way in which we appoint department chairs.

The most important work, however, is ongoing—a two year process to study and reform our existing policy for the Appointment, Retention, Tenure and Promotion of faculty. I would like the opportunity to attempt to finish this job, a goal that I think is realistic in AY 2014-15. Revising the most important policy on our campus has always been a multi-year process, and completing our efforts will require continuity of purpose but also sensitivity to feedback and a willingness to revise and adjust as we move forward with public drafts. No policy does more to shape the future of our University than the policy by which we select, develop, retain, tenure, and promote the next generation of faculty.

All policy Chairs also serve on the Executive Committee and have a general obligation to serve as Senate leaders. I believe my depth of experience over approximately a quarter century on the Senate and under six Presidents has given me a perspective that has been valuable during this most difficult of all years. I have served as Chair of the Senate, ASCSU Senator, and Chair of several policy committees, and been a primary author of more than 40 Senate resolutions and policies.

More important, though, than simply serving in a variety of capacities, is my deep seated commitment to collegial shared governance. I have chosen to spend my life at a University rather than in civil service or business because we are governed differently than those other institutions. Well governed universities function with a healthy component of workplace democracy, which strengthens a sense of community around a shared social mission. That ideal, however, requires a heavy commitment of faculty to university service, and it is in that spirit that I offer my candidacy to chair the Professional Standards committee.