

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Committee on Committees  
(Final;Action)

CC.12.07 Nominations for Faculty Membership on the Search Committee for a Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Background**

Chancellor Phyllis Wise has asked the Senate to develop a slate of nominees for the search committee for the selection of a new Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. According to previous procedures approved by the Senate, a Provost Search Committee will consist of 11 members: 8 faculty (5 elected by the Senate, 3 appointed by the Chancellor), 2 students (1 elected by the Senate, 1 appointed by the Chancellor), and 1 academic professional appointed by the Chancellor. One or more of the faculty appointees may have administrative appointments. The Chancellor will appoint a chair from among the 8 faculty members. This composition of the Search Committee is identical to recent provost searches.

Committee on Committees sent a massmail email to faculty, undergraduate students, and graduate students to solicit nominations. Numerous faculty and student nominations were received and evaluated.

**Nominations**

The following faculty members are nominated to fill 5 faculty positions. A bio-sketch of each nominee is included below. The 5 faculty nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be elected.

James Anderson	EDUC
Karen Campbell	VMED
Leon Dash	MDA
Faye Dong	ACES
Jan Erkert	FAA
Placid Ferreira	ENGR
Samantha Frost	LAS
Prasanta Kalita	ACES
Barbara Minsker	ENGR
Catherine Prendergast	LAS
Joseph Rosenblatt	LAS
Bill Stewart	AHS

**Committee on Committees**

Bettina Francis, Chair  
Damani Bolden  
Harley T Johnson  
Prasanta Kalita  
John W Kindt  
Jim Maskeri  
Cris Mayo  
Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey  
Chaya Sandler

Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by the nominee's signed statement of willingness to serve if elected. The statement shall be dated and include the name of the position to be filled. If present, the nominee's oral statement will suffice.

**JAMES ANDERSON (EDUC)**

James D. Anderson is Gutsell Professor and Head of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Graduate College (1988-1990), Chairperson of the Athletic Board of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (1989-1990), member of the Consultative Committee to Assist in the Selection of the President of the University of Illinois (1994-1995), Chairperson of Chancellor's Annual Conference Planning Committee (2001-2002), Chairperson of the campus Diversity Initiatives Committee (1999-2004), and member of the Editorial Board of the University of Illinois Press (2001-present). He also served as a member of the recent search committee for the Vice-President and Chancellor of the Urbana campus. He is the senior editor of the History of Education Quarterly and was elected to the National Academy of Education in 2008.

**KAREN CAMPBELL (VMED)**

Challenging times are also times of opportunity. The University of Illinois is among the very best in the nation because of the excellence of our faculty, staff and students. It is important for us to identify and recruit a provost who is committed to further strengthening the reputation of our academic programs and faculty. Also integral to enhancing the stature of the university will be providing support for research, scholarship and other creative activities that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and provide value to society. I have been a faculty member at the University of Illinois for 28 years and have been actively involved in college-level strategic planning. As a former 4-H member, I believe in the motto "To Make the Best Better" and would look forward to helping to identify a provost who shares that vision.

**LEON DASH (MDA)**

I served on the committee that selected Linda Katehi. I recognize the level of examination and scrutiny a search committee member must apply in selecting the very best candidate for our campus.

**FAYE DONG (ACES)**

I know that faculty members often ask "Why do we need a Provost and a Chancellor?" I served on the search committee for the Chancellor in 2004-05 and that question was discussed back then, and I still hear the question raised now. The Provost has the enormous responsibility of overseeing the campus educational programs, research activities, academic personnel, and budget while leading the charge to constantly improve the high quality education, superb research portfolio, and stellar reputation of the main Illinois campus during challenging economic times. These are huge expectations that will require an effective, intelligent, and perceptive Provost who will work in the best interest of the University. I firmly believe that a campus the size of UIUC needs a Provost who is an outstanding leader and who will work well with the administrative teams to make wise decisions. It is truly an honor to be nominated to serve on the search committee for the new Provost, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement.

**JAN ERKERT (FAA)**

As chief academic officer, the Provost is crucial to maintaining and furthering the excellence and creativity of our faculty and the quality of the educational experience of our students. We will need the Provost to provide ethical, innovative and inspired leadership as we address the major challenges ahead, which include the unique autonomy of this campus, the changing landscape of teaching/learning, the dynamic interplay between teaching and research for faculty and students, interdisciplinary collaboration between our highly individualized units, utilization of new technologies, diversity as it relates to faculty, students and curriculum, and the continued development of shared leadership in all academic matters. As a Fulbright Scholar, Artistic Director, author, Teaching Excellence Awardee, and national spokesperson for innovative teaching/learning, I believe I have the experience necessary to be rigorous and open in the pursuit of an academic leader who will further the mission of this great University.

**PLACID FERREIRA (ENGR)**

Professor Placid M. Ferreira is the Head and the Grayce Wicall Gauthier Professor of Mechanical Science and Engineering at Illinois. From 2003 to 2009, he was Principal Investigator and Director of the Center for Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical Manufacturing Systems (Nano-CEMMS), a NSF-sponsored Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center. He has been on the mechanical engineering faculty at Illinois since 1987, serving as the associate head for graduate programs and research from 1999 to 2002. Professor Ferreira received NSF's Presidential Young Investigator Award in 1990, Society of Manufacturing Engineers' Outstanding Young Investigator Award in 1991 and the University of Illinois' University Scholar Award in 1994. He became a Fellow of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in 2011.

**SAMANTHA FROST (LAS)**

Samantha Frost is Associate Professor in the Political Science Department, the Department of Women and Gender Studies, as well as the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory. Her research focuses on theories of embodiment and politics. Frost is the author of *Lessons from a materialist thinker: Hobbesian reflections on ethics and politics* (Stanford UP, 2008) which was recognized as a Best First Book by the political theory section of the American Political Science Association. She co-edited *New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, and Politics* (Duke UP, 2010). Her work has also appeared in journals such as *Political Theory* and *Theory and Event*. Frost recently received an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship which enabled her to undertake a year and a half long course of study in biology. She subsequently received a Mellon Post-Fellowship grant supporting her composition of a book entitled *Biology for Humanists*. Frost's teaching covers various topics in political and feminist theory; she recently received the LAS Lynn M. Martin Award for excellence in teaching. Frost is a member of the Executive Committee in Gender and Women's Studies and is Political Theory field chair in Political Science. She is also serving as a member of the Gender Equity Council. With her penchant for cross-disciplinary research and her recognition of the importance of teaching, Frost appreciates the opportunity to work with her colleagues in selecting a provost who will respect and support the intellectual integrity of the research and teaching missions of the university.

**PRASANTA KALITA (ACES)**

Dr. Prasanta K. Kalita is a Professor and Leader of Soil & Water Resources Engineering program of the Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department. He has a well-funded research program both nationally and internationally, has published extensively in peer reviewed journals and currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of a peer-reviewed journal. Dr. Kalita has won departmental, college, campus, regional, and national awards, and has been recognized with Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Award on Campus. In 2005, Dr. Kalita won the National Award of the USDA Higher Education Program for excellence in college and university teaching. In 2009, Dr. Kalita served on the Provost Search Committee. He currently chairs the Campus Committee on Race and Ethnicity (CORE), serves on the Campus Teaching Advancement Board (TAB), serves on the College of ACES P&T Committee, and serves on the Provost Advisory Group. He has served as co-chair on TAB, chaired the ACES Administrators Evaluation Committee, chaired the Engineering Grievance Committee, and chaired the Campus Study Abroad Advisory Committee. Currently, Dr. Kalita serves on both colleges of Engineering and ACES Executive Committees. He has served on numerous other campus, colleges (Engineering and ACES), department committees, and national and international professional societies and government panels. He recently completed the US Land Grant Institutions LEAD 21 Leadership Program.

**BARBARA MINSKER (ENGR)**

Barbara Minsker has been Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Faculty Affiliate at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications since 1996. She recently completed a 3-year term as Associate Provost Fellow in the Office of the Provost, where she helped to launch the campus sustainability initiative, collaborating with the Chancellor, the Provost, the other Vice Chancellors, the Office of Sustainability, and hundreds of faculty, staff, and students from across campus. Through these appointments, she has a unique and broad perspective on the opportunities and challenges that the Provost will need to address and the workings of the Office of the Provost. She would welcome the opportunity to serve the campus in helping to identify an outstanding leader for this important position.

**CATHERINE PRENDERGAST (LAS)**

As a faculty member who has chosen to stay at the University of Illinois since 1997, I am invested in seeing our university recover from years of budget cuts and ethics scandals that have threatened its research and educational missions. My diverse service appointments, including membership on the University Scholar selection committee and the directorship of the first year writing program (4000+ students per year), have afforded me a broad view of the challenges that face the next Provost, who will need to ensure the infrastructure to support excellent scholarship and research, recognize the unique contributions and attributes of the Urbana campus, restore the morale and earn the respect of the faculty, and secure the accessibility of a University of Illinois education. With Admissions, Human Resources, and Financial Aid all reporting directly to the Provost, we must identify a candidate with a truly strong record for transparency and accountability.

**JOSEPH ROSENBLATT (LAS)**

Joseph Rosenblatt has been a Professor of Mathematics since 1988. He was at the Ohio State University from 1974-1994 before coming to the University of Illinois. He has served here as Chair of the Department of Mathematics from September 1999 to August 2004, and March 2006 to August 2006. He is currently on the Research Board. He has recently been a member of his department's Executive Committee and the Provost's Promotion and Tenure Committee. He has been on the LAS Executive Committee, the Graduate College's Fellowship Committee, the International Programs and Studies Executive Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Committee of the Beckman Institute, and the Computational Science and Engineering Steering Committee. He was a Program Officer in the Division of Mathematical Sciences at NSF from 2006-2008. He has taught courses at all levels in the undergraduate and graduate programs at three universities. He has published over 90 research articles, supervised 13 doctoral students, and obtained many grants to support his work.

**BILL STEWART (AHS)**

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Provost Search Committee. The Provost is the chief academic officer of the University, and serves a critical leadership role in advancing campus educational experiences. I have played several roles over the past decade related to academic programs, including proposing new coursework as a faculty member, reviewing course and curricula proposals as a member of the Educational Policy Committee of Applied Health Sciences, implementing the recently established interdisciplinary Health program as its first Director, and serving as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to oversee educational programs, student affairs, and teaching development in my college. In addition, I have served on the campus Gen Ed Board, co-chaired the campus Sustainable Education Task Force to integrate learning outcomes related to sustainability into campus curricula, and am currently facilitating the development of recruitment strategies for PhD students within AHS units.