

Chris Tweeter, UO Libraries (Knight Library)

University Senate, IAAC seats

Hello friend. I have been a classified staff employee at the Knight Library for the past 16 years. I have seen the best and the worst when it comes to how classified staff are alternately valued and supported or marginalized and gaslit. I would hope to advocate for increasing the former and lessening the later. I believe shared governance is vital to a robust academic environment, and I do have concerns about the increasingly top down/centralized model of governance and its effect on the campus culture. The boat can only go forward when all team members are rowing in concert. I may have blindspots when it comes to this view, and would hope service on the University Senate could illuminate those.

In my past I was an elected representative in student government at a different institution. I was very ignorant going in, with no experience at all, but it turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences I had as an undergraduate. It was an eye-opening experience working with various campus constituencies, while at the same time serving with people with different backgrounds than me. We had anxieties and biases about working with each other, and the experience of those melting away forever changed and informed my view on the importance of University service and shared governance. I am intrigued by the opportunity to interact with an engaged Senate, as well as the opportunity to see how the sausage is made as it were.