

## FSEC ELECTION STATEMENTS - 2024

Mat Ryan  
Assistant Professor  
Academic English Coordinator in the ESL Program at INTO SLU

I joined the SLU ESL Program as an adjunct in 2008, and at the onset of the ESL-INTO partnership in the summer of 2016, I accepted a full-time position as one of four faculty administrators in the program. I currently oversee the Academic English Program, serving beginner and intermediate users of English on their way to degree studies. In 2020, ESL and CADE were granted a joint seat in Faculty Senate, both units' first voting member in this body; I was honored to be elected. Having no mentor to learn from, I reflected on what a faculty senator should be and the answer seemed simple: a representative who listens to learn, speaks to be heard, and shows up to be seen. And so I began. To these ends, I maintain a line of communication with the director of CADE to better understand his faculty's interests. I write a monthly FS newsletter so that my constituents stay informed. I explain my voting record and solicit input in an ongoing effort to gain greater fidelity with the diverse views of the individuals I represent. I make it a point to participate actively in FS and other fora around campus to remind people that language teachers and students are in the room, too. I am a teaching-focused, non-tenure track faculty member, but I do not stand for this office as a means of advancing personal politics, priorities, or projects. While I welcome recent efforts to celebrate teaching and advance the interests of NTTs, I understand that research, scholarship, and the interests of tenured faculty remain critical to the institution. The role of FS president is to advance the shared goals and defend the common interests of all faculty members regardless of track or rank, department or school. I stand before you ready to listen, to learn, and to live the mission of serving a greater good.

Joe D. Lyons, PhD  
Director & Assistant Professor  
Security & Strategic Intelligence Program  
School for Professional Studies

I want to express my sincere interest in consideration for the role of Faculty Senate President. I am currently an Assistant Professor and have been with the university since 2015. I have a strong personal connection to SLU as well, as I met my wife here when I was a PhD student in 1999. I took a non-

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Excellence), where I have the privilege of funding students and faculty in support of careers in public service. I first became a senator in 2016, serving two terms as the SPS senator. It was during those terms that I really gained an appreciation for the role of the Senate. I saw firsthand how faculty could be involved in governance, and how decision making is improved with faculty input. I also witnessed many occasions where faculty were not involved in the process, and I wanted to become an advocate for faculty voices. In 2022, I was elected as an at large member of the FSEC, where I have served the past two years. I have also had the honor of serving on GAAC for two terms, as well as many ad hoc university level committee's and school level committees. In each of these roles, I strived to ensure that faculty have a voice in affairs of the university.

I want to continue this service and ask for your consideration for the role of Faculty Senate President. I believe there is still much work to be done as far as faculty participation in governance.

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Donna Jahnke, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
School of Education  
MASA Missouri Superintendents Academy Director  
Retired Ladue Schools Superintendent

I am writing to apply for a position on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as a standing member. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Senate for the past year. However, I have been an involved faculty member for many years, as I would tune in to the Senate regularly prior to my official



Ruth Porter Grof , PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Affiliated Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy

I came to SLU as an Assistant Professor in 2008, after five years as a VAP elsewhere (Marquette; Williams College; SUNY Albany). I was promoted to Associate Professor in 2014. My home department is political science, but as of 2022 I am also formally affiliated with the philosophy department. I teach courses on the history of Western political thought and on critical theory, broadly construed. This was my first time being a Senator, but I have served the College of Arts and Sciences in various ways, including as Secretary (and thereby a member of the Executive Committee). I was appointed to the University-wide DEI search committee by Provost Lewis, when the late Jonathan Smith's position was filled permanently, and have been a University Writing Fellow for many years (though we don't get too many requests for help these days). For most of my 20's, I worked as a labor-community organizer in Philadelphia, so I have organizational experience outside of the academy. Within the academy, I founded and am the coordinator of an international consortium, the Critical Social Ontology Workshop, which holds an annual working conference (which I also organize) – in addition to my time on CAS FC Exec and as a dept. rep. to FC.

I'm interested in the position because ... well ... I seem to be constitutionally attracted to big-picture organizational/structural matters and I care about SLU. While I'm not in a position to potentially serve as Secretary or President, I would like to help in whatever way that I can to have our large ship (continue to) be pointed in a good direction. I apologize for the clichéd metaphor, but it captures what I mean, and I can't think of a better way to put it. I'm not a Catholic, but the faith-based/social justice aspect of our mission is one that I believe requires on-going tending, to keep it alive and well. I went to a faith