

Academic Senate Executive Secretary Candidate Statement

My name is April Oliver, and I would like to announce my candidacy for Academic Senate Executive Secretary. As an English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) instructor, department chair, and Academic Senator, I bring substantial experience in faculty leadership, collaborative governance, and equity-centered advocacy. I would welcome the opportunity to support the Senate President and Executive Committee while helping the Senate conduct its work in an organized, transparent, and inclusive manner.



From 2019-2023 and 2025-the present, I have served as an Academic Senator representing EMLS, Library and Information Resources, and World Languages. This experience has strengthened my understanding of the Academic Senate's responsibility to make recommendations on 10+1 academic and professional matters, including curriculum, student preparation and success, educational program development, faculty professional development, program review, and institutional planning and budgeting. It has also reinforced my belief that meaningful faculty participation is essential to sound institutional decision-making.

As EMLS Department Chair, I regularly coordinate with faculty, staff, administrators, and campus partners; communicate complex information; maintain records; follow up on decisions; and help move collaborative work forward. These responsibilities have prepared me to assist the Senate President, contribute thoughtfully to the Executive Committee, and support the timely production of clear and accurate minutes.

My leadership experience has also prepared me to provide continuity when other Senate officers are temporarily unavailable. I approach leadership responsibilities with preparation, dependability, and careful listening. If called upon to assume additional duties, I would work to ensure that Senate business continues effectively and that faculty perspectives remain represented.

Equity and student access are central to my work. As an educator, I have prioritized creating inclusive curricula that reflect the diverse backgrounds and lived experiences of our students. Beyond the classroom, I have actively contributed to institutional equity initiatives, advocating for policies that address achievement gaps among historically underrepresented students. For example, my collaborative work with Adult Education to secure grant funding for EMLS programs has expanded educational access for multilingual learners, ensuring that they have pathways to career and academic success. Through these efforts, I have learned how important it is to connect broad institutional goals with careful implementation, consistent communication, and attention to the experiences of those most affected by our decisions.

If elected Executive Secretary, I will support:

- * Clear, accurate, and timely documentation of Senate discussions and actions;
- * Open communication among faculty, Senate leadership, administrators, and campus partners;

- * Thoughtful and equitable faculty representation on College and Senate committees;
- * Consistent attention to the Senate's 10+1 responsibilities; and
- * Organized follow-through that helps translate faculty deliberation into meaningful institutional action.

I would be honored to serve as Academic Senate Executive Secretary and to contribute my leadership experience, institutional knowledge, attention to detail, and commitment to collaborative governance. Thank you for your consideration and support.