

Faculty Senate 2008-2009

Biographies of Officer Nominees

Chair

Manoj Chopra, PhD, PE, Associate Professor in Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Central Florida; BE 1985 Birla Institute of Technology and Science; MS 1988 and PhD 1992 State University of New York at Buffalo.

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as the Chair of the UCF Faculty Senate and member of its Board of Trustees for the past three years. I am proud of my record of service to the faculty and the entire UCF community during this period. I will continue to work diligently for a better future for the university as we go through this extraordinary period of challenges that come with the reducing budgets. These are exciting times for the university as one of the one hand we welcome the new College of Medicine while on the other hand we struggle to maintain quality as our faculty-student ratios continue to increase. I will continue to be vigilant to the needs of the faculty that have worked extremely hard to bring us to where we are today. This includes the availability of adequate resources for the faculty. Thank you for continued support.

Vice Chair

Ida J. Cook, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Central Florida, received her B.A. (U. of F.) in 1967, her M.S. (F.S.U.) in 1969, and her Ph.D. in sociology in 1976 from North Carolina State University (*An Evaluation of Change in the Relationship between Ascriptive and Achievement Variables in the United States from 1960-1970*). Dr. Cook's research focuses on evaluation of social programs, community change, political behavior, substance abuse, public attitudes toward pornography, domestic violence, and health care for the elderly. She has presented her research at numerous conferences and has published several monographs on evaluation, regarding attitudes toward retirement, services for children in poverty,

substance abuse and social programs, domestic violence, study of attitudes and experiences of caregivers for dementia/Alzheimer's patients. Her current work involves the study of retirement expectations and experiences among professionals. At UCF, she has been involved in many areas of faculty governance, including the Faculty Senate (Vice Chair, Chair, committees), College of Arts and Sciences, College of Sciences, UFF and community service.

Secretary

Aubrey Jewett received his Ph.D. from Florida State University. He is Associate Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Florida. His research and teaching interests are in American national, state and local politics with an emphasis on Florida. Professor Jewett has published in a number of refereed political science journals and edited volumes, delivered research at many professional conferences and recently coauthored the book *Politics in Florida* through Florida Institute of Government Press. Recognition from the discipline includes the Leon Weaver Award for his study of ballot invalidation in Florida during the 2000 presidential election and selection as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. Professor Jewett has been PI or Co-PI on over \$800,000 worth of external grants – many related to civic education – and has won multiple awards for teaching and advising excellence. He supervises an internship program that has placed over 1000 UCF students at various local, state and national sites since 1998 – with many going on to paid jobs. Professor Jewett is a frequent source for local, national and international media. Some additional service assignments include UCF Faculty Senator, COS Elections Committee Chair, and Florida Political Science Association President. Professor Jewett also co-founded the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at UCF and serves as a member of the Board of Directors. He is currently working on a co-authored book with Congressman Frey on the personal political rules that guide the behavior of congressional representatives.