

FS President

Matt 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 dentists 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-traditional approach to academia, having served for 27 years as a Navy Officer, prior to my first academic appointment. While much of my military experience is not all that applicable to the academy, I do find that the sense of mission, the need for teamwork, and also the practice of integrity, are skills that have been vital across all of my professional roles. I have applied this past year for promotion to Associate Professor, and I am eagerly awaiting the announcement in May from the Provost. I currently serve as the Director of the Strategic Intelligence Program, overseeing the undergraduate and graduate programs. I also manage a grant funded center (the SLU Intelligence Community Center for Academic

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. As we set out in search of a new University President and transition to an R1 school, it is important that the senate and faculty not only have a role in the search process, but also setting the expectations as to the relationship between the faculty and administration. It is my opinion that we currently have a good relationship with the Provost, President, and Board, but there is room for improvement. Issues on the horizon are some of the most contentious we have faced in quite a while. They include the budget, workload, enrollment trends, research and teaching expectations, faculty salary and benefits, and the protection of tenure, just to name a few. It will be necessary for the senate to ensure that in each of these issues, faculty voices are heard and valued. I see this as the responsibility of all senators, but especially the president of the senate. Setting the agenda of the senate is one of the most important roles the president and FSEC plays. Ensuring that issues like those mentioned earlier receive fair consideration by the senate and are properly elevated to the Provost and University President is an absolute necessity. This is my primary motivation for running for office. I see the next 2-4 years as some of the most important SLU has ever faced, as far as how we as an institution move forward in an ever-changing world. I do not portend to know the answers and solutions to the issues facing our university, but I do know that by engaging with and listening to faculty, those solutions will be better. Our faculty have the drive, the will, and the experience to help SLU navigate these rough waters ahead. As senate president, I will strive to ensure all faculty voices are heard, and have an impact on the decisions being made.

Faculty Senate Secretary

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 appointment through the School of Education and made it a point to stay well informed on the work of the faculty.

I am finishing my 5th year as an Assistant Professor for the School of Education, teaching in the Educational Leadership Program. While the majority of my courses are in the doctoral program, I teach a masters course each year as well, and have also taught an undergraduate class in two different semesters. With regard to my engagement in school and university work, I serve on the Graduate Assist Committee; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; and the Graduate Academic Committee. As part of the Non-Tenured Teacher work group, I contributed to the effort to design a tenure process for non-tenured track faculty in the School of Education. In addition, I am participating in the Critical Friends faculty work partnering with tenured professors Molly Schaller and John James. At the university level I serve on the LTAC Committee.

With regard to leadership roles, I served as the Chair of the SOE Strategic Planning Committee for the past two years, leading a team and our faculty through a process to revise our mission, vision, and core values. That work has now been turned over to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to develop action plans around our Core Values. I continue to serve in a leadership role in DEI facilitating the Communications Sub-Committee group. Within the EDL department, I am the Internship Program Coordinator for all graduate students, and for the last year have run the Master's Program as well. I advise between 20 and 25 students each year and have 11 graduating with their Ed.D. in May.

My resume is attached for your convenience, which describes my extensive experience in K-12 education before coming to Saint Louis University. I feel it is a privilege and honor to work for SLU, and know that I am in the right place to share my experiences and expertise while continuing my own growth and understanding through teaching, leading, and working with faculty, staff, and administration to live our Core Values; Cura Personalis, Trust and Integrity, Social Justice, Growth and Transformation, and Reflective Practice.

FSEC ELECTION STATEMENTS - 2024

I am interested in serving on the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate because of my commitment not only to the School of Education, but to the university as a whole. I believe in the mission of Saint Louis University and am proud of the focus on developing the whole student. I know we are truly committed to our students developing intelligent, thoughtful, and service oriented individuals who will go out in the world and work for peace, justice, and community. We need that in the world today. In order to do this work we must nurture the strength of our faculty and ensure they have an environment to work within that allows teaching and learning to thrive. Contributing to the universities research agenda and supporting the influential work of faculty within SLU is an important component of that work as well. In my experience, the Faculty Senate is a governing body that works closely with administration to advocate for faculty in a thoughtful, constructive manner. That ultimately positively impacts students. I believe my experience both within the faculty of Saint Louis University and prior to coming to SLU would allow me to be a contributing member of the Executive Committee.

FSEC at-large position

Ruth Porter Groff, 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-based Quaker college as an undergraduate (Swarthmore College), and the experience has shaped my whole life. I think that I'm clear thinking and good at resisting whatever might be the rhetoric of the day, but also not rigid intellectually or personally; hopefully these are qualities that would allow me to contribute in a positive way to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.