

Slate of Candidates for the 2022-2023 Chair-Elect
Submitted by the Senate Nominations Committee

Chair-Elect Nominees (One will be Elected)

- Christopher Jarzynski Distinguished University Professor College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences, *Institute for Physical Science & Technology*
- Peter B. Sunderland Professor A. James Clark School of Engineering, *Fire Protection Engineering*

Candidacy Statements for the Chair-Elect 2022-2023 Election

Chair-Elect Nominees (One will be Elected)

**Christopher Jarzynski, Distinguished University Professor, Institute for Physical Science & Technology
College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences**



I am honored to be considered for the position of Chair-Elect of the University Senate. This is my sixteenth year as a faculty member at the University of Maryland. I moved here, after a decade of research experience at Los Alamos National Laboratory, because I wanted to teach – to share my enthusiasm for science with the next generations of scholars and citizens. What I didn't realize at the time is how much I would learn here – through exchanges with students in the classroom and beyond, through interactions with colleagues as I continued to pursue basic research, and through service aimed at sustaining and strengthening this wonderful university. I have come to appreciate that a great institution does not run on auto-pilot: it requires ongoing commitment and attention from those who care deeply about its well-being. At UMD the shared governance model is a key element of this process.

If elected, I will listen carefully to the voices of students, staff and faculty, in order to assist the Senate in advising the President effectively. I will seek innovative responses to expected and unexpected challenges. Foremost, I will be guided by the conviction that the University must continually strive for both excellence and inclusion in its educational and research missions. The Senate can and must play a leading role in this dual goal.

My academic background is in theoretical physics, but after receiving my PhD my interests led me toward theoretical chemistry, and I have ended up in a sweet spot pursuing research at the intersection of these two fields. While my tenure home is the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, I also hold appointments in the Institute for Physical Science and Technology (IPST) and the Department of Physics. I have taught courses ranging from the 100-level to the 700-level. Eleven graduate students have successfully completed their PhD's under my supervision, including two who were co-advised. I have published over 100 research articles, and during my current sabbatical year I am writing a book based on a course I developed here at UMD. My research has been recognized by a number of awards and honors, including election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

From 2014 to 2019 I was the Director of IPST, and during this time I came to appreciate the importance and exceptional devotion of the staff, who really keep the University running. I have also been the Interim Director of the Chemical Physics PhD program, and have served on committees from the departmental to the university level, as well as outside the University. I am particularly proud of my service on a number of faculty search committees, which have succeeded in attracting outstanding and energetic colleagues to UMD.

I am running for the position of Chair-Elect of the University Senate because I believe I can provide effective leadership in this capacity, and because I wish to give back to the University some measure of what it has given to me since I arrived here in 2006. Whether or not I am elected to this position, I look forward to working with other members of the Senate, and with the Administration, in the shared governance of the University of Maryland.

**Peter Sunderland, Professor, Fire Protection Engineering
A. James Clark School of Engineering**



I am honored to be a candidate for Chair-Elect of the University Senate.

As a Senator since 2019, I have been impressed with how the Senate conducts its business with fairness and efficiency, brings together people from all contingencies on campus, welcomes the voice of any community member on any topic, and embraces diversity, equity and inclusion. If elected I will do my best to foster these aspects of the Senate.

I came to UMD as Assistant Professor in 2004. I am now Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in Fire Protection Engineering. I also serve as Affiliate Professor in the departments of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, and as Keystone Professor in the Clark School.

I served as Chair of the Engineering Senate in 2021. This body had been inactive for over five years but we hit the ground running. We reviewed and approved a large number of policy revisions, revised our Bylaws and our Plan of Organization, and held effective and timely meetings, elections, and officer transitions. This work was rewarding and it enhanced my appreciation of shared governance.

There will be extensive business before the University Senate this year and next, involving APT policy, programs and facilities naming, a plan of organization for shared governance review, the student codes of conduct, and more. I believe that having an experienced and enthusiastic Chair-Elect and Chair will be essential.

I strongly support the ideals of shared governance at UMD. Our Senate is, and will continue to be, a model for our peer institutions. I look forward to helping however I can.