

Southwest Tennessee Community College
Faculty Senate
Position Paper for President
March 3, 2010

My name is Joyce D. Johnson and I serve as Assistant Professor of Biology, Department of Natural Science. I have been a member of the Southwest faculty since the Fall of 2004. In the Spring of 2006, I was selected as the department representative to the faculty senate. During my tenure on the Faculty Senate, I have served on the Faculty Development and Evaluation Committee, the Election Committee, and currently serving as Vice- President of the Senate. I also serve as the senate representative to TBR Faculty Sub-Council.

Being a member of the faculty senate has been a way for me to participate in the college's governance; representing the interests and ideas of fellow faculty members. It has afforded me the unique opportunity to understand the intricacy of our college system and specifically the mission of Southwest. Together, administration and faculty, we can meet the many challenges in preparing students to face the future. The Senate is a medium through which faculty voices its views—academic and social—affecting not only the well-being of faculty and students, but the overall health of the academy. As president of the senate, it is my plan to initiate, encourage, and ensure faculty that their concerns involving academic and intellectual freedoms as well as any matter relating to faculty status and welfare will be heard.

In order for Southwest to be successful, the relationship between the senate and the administration should be collegial. A locomotive cannot reach its goal without a solid roadbed and carefully laid tracks to follow. When the tracks are improperly laid, the train will derail causing severe injury and destruction. The Faculty Senate might protest, while realizing that the meaning is to be both for and against at the same time. It can not be only a discordant voice. It must also be a voice of reason. Together the tracks (Administration) and the passenger cars (faculty) can get our passenger (students) to their destination. The senate and the administration should work in conjunction with each other with the shared goal of quality education for our students. Our students are our main concern. All decisions and policies should have the purpose of encouraging our students to excel in their academic and professional careers.

In conclusion, these priorities would guide me: strengthening our mission of supporting faculty interest; encouraging profession development; and providing a means of communicating common concerns. I also envision my role as president of the senate as keeping the lines of communication open between the faculty and the administration.