Candidates for FSU Executive Committee, Fall 2023 Special Election

The following individuals have submitted the required paperwork to be a candidate for a position on the FSU Executive Committee. Below is each candidate, their title, and a 150-word statement.

Tenured Faculty – Vote for three

**Suha Ballout**, Associate Professor. Nursing.

I am honored to self-nominate for a seat as a Tenured Faculty on the Executive Committee of FSU. As an Associate Professor in Nursing, Beaconflex Mentor, and CIT Co-Director, I have witnessed the interplay of academia, research, community engagement, mentorship, and technology. However, what truly drives me is my unwavering commitment to equity, justice, accessibility, and success.

My multifaceted identity as a nurse, researcher, educator, parent, activist, colleague, and individual informs my dedication to fostering an inclusive environment where every voice is heard, and every perspective valued. I am passionate about breaking down barriers that hinder productivity and wellness, ensuring that all faculty and staff have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. I look forward to being on a journey to create a campus climate that reflects our shared values and empowers everyone to shine. Thank you for considering my nomination.

**Jemadari Kamara**, Professor. Africana Studies.

Our institution has made unfulfilled commitments to employees and our community to equity, social justice, and the advancement of workers opportunities. It has claimed a desire to become an anti-racist, health promoting institution. Unfortunately, its practice has fallen short of its rhetoric. Transparency of decision-making has been lacking. Accountability for actions and administrative decisions made with little input from staff and faculty, who frequently must implement such decisions, needs to change. I’m submitting my candidacy to work with other faculty and staff who are concerned about our working conditions, just compensation for our commitment and service to the institution, and who seek to help create a more collaborative workplace that exemplifies our values through its just practice.

**Patricia Krueger-Henney**, Associate Professor in Urban Education, Leadership, and Policy Studies. Leadership in Education.

I have been at UMass Boston since 2011 and tenured since 2019. Whether through working in the classroom, nourishing on-campus collaborations, or leading community-privileging initiatives in the larger Boston area, I mindfully and principally build critical spaces of mutual care, facilitate ethical collaborations, and engage in participatory action with students and colleagues. This is why I am keen to serve on the Executive Committee of the FSU; any interaction with the university administration will mirror my commitment to the wellbeing and success of colleagues and students of color in particular, and is solidly grounded in years of experience with building cross-ethnic solidarity, organizing to center equity and justice for all communities, and practicing institutional transparency and shared governance.

**Wei Zhang**, Professor. College of Management/Management Science and Information Systems.

I am currently a professor in the College of Management, MSIS department. I joined UMass Boston as an Assistant Professor 20 years ago and have been an FSU member since then. My service record includes being the first director of Assurance of Learning for our College’s AACSB accreditation effort (AYs2018-23) and serving in the Faculty Council (AYs2015-18) and our College’s Faculty Steering Committee (AYs2018-20).

We tenured faculty members play a vital role in fulfilling our institutional mission and making UMass Boston a strong public urban research university. We are in a better and stronger position to speak for our pre-tenure, NTT, and staff colleagues. As an Ex-Comm member, I will work for a better environment for us, especially associate professors, to sustain our success and advance our careers. I also hope to work with my colleagues in the Ex-Comm for a better and fairer environment for all UMB community members.