2021 Faculty Senate Candidate Profile
Secretary Position

Name: Jason Porter

College: Optometry

Department: Basic Sciences

Years at UH: 14

Years on the Senate: 6

Please provide a brief description of your activities in the following areas for the past five years.

1) **Service (including the Faculty Senate):**

I have been very committed to service at the College, University, and Professional levels since becoming a faculty member at UH in 2006. At the College level, I have been elected as the Vice Chair of our College's Faculty for the past 4 years and have served on numerous committees, including Promotion & Tenure (as Chair), the ADVANCE Climate Survey Task Force, Curriculum, Merit Review, Admissions, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees. At the University level, I am currently Chair of the Graduate and Professional Studies Committee, and previously chaired its Academic Program Evaluation Subcommittee. I also serve on the Executive Committee, Academic Calendar Committee, and University Coordinating Commission. I previously served the Faculty Senate on the Community and Government Relations Committee, where I was also a member of the inaugural Assistant Professor Excellence (APeX) Subcommittee. I was also a member of the Provost's Faculty Competitive Salary Adjustment Committee. At the Professional level, I have served on the Professional Development and Education, Members-in-Training, and Publications Committees (as Chair) for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), a leading scientific organization in my discipline. I am also an Associate Topical Editor for Optometry & Vision Science and an Associate Editor for Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics, two leading optometric peer-reviewed journals.

2) **Scholarship/Research:**

My laboratory investigates mechanisms responsible for the development and progression of neuro-ophthalmic and retinal-related conditions (including glaucoma, traumatic brain injury / concussion, and inherited retinal degenerations) primarily through the use of highly sensitive *in vivo* imaging tools. Some of our more recent work has also examined how the structure of the retina (the part of the eye that detects light) changes during normal development and during the development of myopia (or nearsightedness). To help facilitate this work, we have built an adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscope to noninvasively image and monitor normal and diseased retinal structure on a single-cell level in living human and animal eyes. These experiments are often complimented with the use of clinical imaging techniques and visual function examinations to investigate structure-function relationships. The laboratory also conducts engineering research, often to facilitate its

scientific goals. Our laboratory has been well-supported by federal organizations (including NIH and NSF) and private foundations (such as the American Optometric Association and BrightFocus Foundation). I have also been recognized as a Fellow of ARVO and the American Academy of Optometry, and serve as a reviewer on NIH study sections.

3) Teaching:

I consistently strive to effectively teach content, process, and attitudinal skills to my students in the classroom and in my research laboratory with the goal of providing the framework for my students to become independent, critical thinkers. As a research faculty member, I have had the privilege to mentor several undergraduate, optometry, masters, and doctoral students from different departments, including biology, computer science, biomedical engineering, vision science, and optometry, as well as postdoctoral fellows and a research scientist. I have been actively involved in teaching in the College's graduate and professional programs. In the graduate program, I am the course director for the "Advanced Module: Optics and the Eye" course, as well as the "Professional Development for Vision Scientists" course, both of which I co-developed. I am also a co-instructor in the Basic Physiological Optics Core Course for first year graduate students. In the professional program, I have been the Course Director and sole instructor for the "Optics II - Physical Optics" course taught to first-year optometry students since 2008. I have more recently become a co-instructor in professional courses on "Clinical Integration" and our "Seminar in Scientific Investigation." Outside of the University, I am a designer and instructor in the Institute for Scientist and Engineer Educator's (ISEE) Professional Development Program (PDP), a program that aims to develop future faculty expertise by training graduate students to design, teach, and assess science and engineering at the undergraduate level using effective, inclusive teaching strategies (such as inquiry-based learning). My commitment to education has also been recognized by the receipt of our College's Harold E. Bedell Award for Excellence in Graduate Education three times over the past 5 years.

What are the three (3) most important issues you would like to see addressed by the Faculty Senate next year?

1. Engage in increased and purposeful communication with central administration to best align faculty senate activities with the University's strategic plan.

2. Work with central administration to discuss lessons learned from our operations during the pandemic to better understand the needs and improve the function and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff

3. Continue to promote and work to foster discussions and improved understanding of issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students, faculty, staff, and alumni within our University community, and for everyone in our public community.