

**2021 Faculty Senate Candidate Profile  
Secretary Position**



**Name:** Jaana Porra

**College:** C. T. Bauer College of Business

**Department:** Department of Decision and Information Sciences

**Years at UH:** 29

**Years on the Senate:** Since October, 2019

**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 served on the Faculty Senate Research and Scholarship Committee and Undergraduate Committee since October 2019. On the R&S Committee, I serve on its two subcommittees: Centers and Institutions; and Research Excellence Awards. On the UC I serve as a member of one of its subcommittees reviewing proposals from colleges relating to their undergraduate programs and policies. I have also served on a UC ad hoc subcommittee revising its bylaws and am currently serving on the ad hoc committee for nominating the next UC Chair. As an appointed member by the Chair of the UC, I also serve on the University Teaching Excellence Awards Committee.

In addition to the Faculty Senate appointments, at the University level, I serve on the Athletics Advisory Committee; Human Relations, Fringe Benefits Committee; and the University Grievance Committee.

At the college level, I have served on the Thought Leadership Committee, which work fed into the current C.T. Bauer College of Business Strategic Plan.

As service to the Houston community, I served on a local private K-12 school board of trustees until 2019. Until 2018, I also served as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee of that same school.

**2) Scholarship/Research:**

1. Porra, J., Lacity, M., and M.S. Parks (2019). Can Computer Based Human-Likeness Endanger Humanness? – A Philosophical and Ethical Perspective on Digital Assistants Expressing Feelings They Can't Have, *Information Systems Frontiers*, pp. 1-15. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10796-019-09969-z>

This paper is a continuation of my life-long research passion on understanding the long-term impact of living with computer technology in its many forms - including digital human-likeness - on the humanness of humanity. My thesis is that humans bond with technology in ways comparable with bonding with other humans and we need to more fully understand what the implications of substituting living with machines for living with humans will be on the future of our species.

2. Lanamäki, A., Porra, J. and R. Hirschheim (2017). A Call to Write the Nordic Information Systems Research Field History – Viewing the Scandinavian way through a career retrospectives lens, *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 29 (1), pp. 3-18.

This second article is part of a series of papers on writing history in the information systems research field about the field and for the field. I have previously published historical research in my discipline as well as developed an historical research method for my discipline and published my work in the top journals.

3. I am currently working as the primary investigator in a multiyear historical research project entitled “70 years of information systems development methodologies – What has changed and why?” with my colleagues Hirschheim, R., Lyytinen, K. and F. Land.

The purpose of this project is to understand how the ways in which the methodologies we use to implement computer based information systems have changed and with what consequences. Our analysis begins from the early days of using general purpose machines (we now call computers) in the first business applications in the early twentieth century and ends with the current times. The purpose of this research is to understand how our philosophical assumptions (ontologies, epistemologies, ethics); values and beliefs influence the ways in which we apply computer technology in our societies and their organizations; what are some of the implications and potential future research directions.

### **3) Teaching:**

In the past five years I have taught in the Management Information Systems undergraduate and doctoral programs at the C.T. Bauer College of Business.

At the undergraduate level, I have taught MIS 3360 Systems analysis and Design and MIS 4378 Administration of the Computer Based Information Systems. In the MIS 3360 course, students learn how to identify business problems and opportunities; and how to design and implement business solutions using computer technology. In the MIS 4378 course, students learn about strategy: How to align business strategy with the organizational strategy and information systems strategy for improved business performance (increased revenue, profitability and/or reduced cost).

At the doctoral level, I have taught MIS 8397 Qualitative Research Methods. In this course the students learn about the variety of qualitative research methods, how these have been applied in their field as well as other disciplines and how to apply them in their own research projects.

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

#### **1. UH Strategy Implementation**

I would like to see the Faculty Senate at the center of the University Strategic plan implementation by actively leading and participating in all five Strategic Implementation Committees and by responding to the many calls these will generate around this important task.

#### **2. Transitioning to the post-COVID (and post winter storm) times**

I would like to see the Faculty Senate at the center of planning and implementing the post-COVID (and post winter storm) workplace. This means remaining sensitive to the varied and diverse needs of the faculty to be able to do their work effectively; stay safe; enjoy a high quality work place; and a good work-life balance while continuing to be sensitive to the student needs.

#### **3. Shared governance, open and transparent communication**

I would like to see the Faculty Senate in the leading role of developing shared governance; as well as open, effective and transparent communication within the Faculty Senate; between the Faculty Senate and the administration; and between the Faculty Senate and the Faculty at large. This includes developing Faculty Senate's communications strategies, practices and policies in all the three areas as well as thoughtful use of information technologies as part of implementing these.

It is important to recognize that the Faculty Senate and individual Faculty Senators are already doing excellent work in these three areas. Their work has paved way for taking each of the three areas to the next level of Faculty Senate strategy, planning, organization and implementation.