

STATEMENTS

**ACADEMIC SENATE ELECTION 2010-2013
SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN
FULL-TIME FACULTY & ALL CHAIRS**

FULL-TIME FACULTY: 7 CANDIDATES FOR 5 SEATS
NOMINEE STATEMENTS

**Mark O'Grady, Professor, Associate Degree Program
Full-time Faculty, School of Art and Design**

Mark O'Grady, Professor Associate Degree Program, is a painter actively exhibiting his work both nationally and internationally. He is a member of such professional organizations as the College Art Association, F. A. T. E. (Foundations in Art Theory and Education), and New York Artists Equity where he serves on the executive board.

"The Academic Senate is a very dynamic and proactive group, representing a wide range of constituencies here at Pratt. There is no other elected body that is inclusive of part-time faculty, full-time faculty, and chairs, from all four schools and the library. I am proud to have served on the Senate, and would welcome an opportunity to continue working to make this a positive force committed to advocating for the academic concerns and issues that directly effect students and faculty."

**Leslie Roberts, Associate Professor, Foundation Art
Full-time Faculty, School of Art and Design**

Having taught at Pratt since 1986, I am committed to helping make students' first year a rich experience that prepares them for their upper departments. In addition to teaching Light, Color, and Design, I'm a department coordinator. Contributions to the institute include service on my department's Peer Review Committee, service on search committees, and involvement in Writing Across the Curriculum. I received a BA from Yale and an MFA from Queens College, and my paintings and works on paper have been shown in and outside of New York.

After twenty-four years teaching Pratt students, I'd like to contribute to their education in another way. Issues like curricular planning, shared governance, and interdepartmental relationships are vital to the quality of a Pratt education. As a senator, I would be committed to keeping my colleagues informed about these issues and to representing their views. I would also represent my students, who express many concerns and frustrations about the same issues.

Pratt's first priority is the students, and we need to be sure they are heard. Faculty also need to listen to one another, and to reach out across departments openly and thoughtfully. And now, if ever, faculty and administration need to work together in a spirit of mutual respect, with students' best interests at heart, in a common effort to give students the best education possible. I would welcome the opportunity to participate in this effort as a senator.

**Sarah van Ouwerkerk, Professor, Film/Video & Photography
Full-time Faculty, School of Art and Design**

As a full time professor in Film/Video & Photography, I have sat on the Academic Senate off and on for about 12 years. In addition to being a Senator, I have represented the faculty on the Finance Committee, the Development Committee and chaired the committee for the revisions of the Faculty Handbook. I am currently a faculty representative on the Board of Trustees.

I see the Senate as an opportunity to learn and contribute to the many issues of various departments and throughout the Institute. This mixed group provides a unique perspective to the varied topics and helps to give me a fresh point of view towards my own department. I see the blend of faculty members and chairs as healthy and challenging and look forward to working on solutions fairly and without prejudice that will make Pratt a better place to work.

Patrick Webb, Professor, Foundation Art Full-time Faculty, School of Art and Design

Patrick Webb is a painter who has exhibited work throughout the US. His work is in the collections of numerous public and private institutions. He received grants from the National Endowment, Ingram Merrill, and Art Matters Foundations. His BFA is from MICA, his MFA is from Yale University and he attended the Skowhegan School. He has taught at Pratt in the Foundation Department since 1995 and was appointed a full-time Associate Professor in 2004. As of the fall of 2009 he is a Full Professor. Webb taught for 16 years at various art schools and universities, including Cornell, Yale, RISD, Brandeis, Johns Hopkins, University of Wisconsin and the New York Academy.

“I have been on the Senate for one term (three years) during which time I served as Treasurer for two years and, currently, as Vice President. An Academic Senate is a vital voice in a higher education institute. It represents the voice of the entire faculty in matters relating to Academics and, in particular supporting excellence in teaching. The faculty are the experts in what we do at Pratt: educate students. We have the greatest breadth and depth of experience —therefore, it is essential that we are a central participant in the process of policy and curriculum development, as well as assessments and outcomes. I believe that because of my experience as a faculty member, as a senator, and as an practicing artist I can represent my constituents in supporting the educational values and mission of Pratt Institute.

Douglas Wirls, Associate Professor, Foundation Art Full-time Faculty, School of Art and Design

Douglas Wirls is an Associate Professor & painter who has taught at Pratt Institute since 1996. Courses taught include Drawing & Light Color & Design for the Foundation Department as well as Painting in Fine Arts. He is currently the Coordinator of Drawing in the Foundation Department. He has served three terms on the Academic Senate – in 2008-09 as Faculty Trustee.

“As an elected representative body, the Senate plays an important role in putting forward the insight and judgment of faculty and chairs in the important undertaking of shared governance at Pratt. Given my past experience on the Senate and my familiarity with the other departments within the Institute, I believe that I am able to fairly and actively represent the educational views and concerns of Pratt faculty and students. I welcome the opportunity to continue to do so.”

GRADUATE CHAIRS: 2 CANDIDATES FOR 1 SEAT

NOMINEE STATEMENTS

Gayle Rodda Kurtz, Ph.D., Assistant Chair, History of Art and Design Adjunct Assistant Professor Graduate Chair, School of Art and Design

"I am currently a member of our department's Curriculum Committee that is reassessing the required art history courses for undergraduates in the School of Art and Design. I am deeply committed to this process that is questioning the specific needs of Pratt students and, at the same time, addressing the issue of what methodologies will best introduce to our students an exciting world-view of the 21st century. For the same reasons, I would like to participate in the workings of the Senate to ensure that the needs and concerns of Pratt students are being met. I would also like to see more interaction between the different schools and departments so that we can share expertise in a way that better serves the interests of our students and I think the Senate has a major role to play in facilitating this cooperation."

Amy Brook Snider, Chair, Art & Design Education Graduate Chair, School of Art and Design

I want to join the Academic Senate to ensure that the faculty perspective on matters pertaining to governance, teaching and learning, and the development of interdisciplinary structures are given a fair hearing.

I am a tenured full professor at Pratt where I have chaired the Art and Design Education Department for about 30 years. Thus, I have shaped its current identity, guiding its growth from a small BFA program to our current BFA, MS, BFA/MS, and Advanced Certificate programs. This growth has required overseeing curricular revisions; acquiring adequate space for classes and workshops; and developing and directing after school programs in design that employ our graduate students and alumni.

In addition, I have received awards and recognition for my work in the state, national, and international art education communities through my conference presentations, exhibitions, scholarly articles; leadership in professional organizations; and consulting work with schools.

Here at Pratt, I have long championed academic activism as well as interdisciplinarity. To give just a sampling of my service to the Institute, I have served on the Faculty Council, the predecessor of the Academic Senate, organized a national conference on *Studio Art Teaching*, and served as Director of *Writing Across the Curriculum*. More recently, I coordinated, with Brent Porter, the *Arts and Poetry in the Schools* project, organized the *Childhood Regained* conference, collaborated with the Studio-In-A-School Association, developed the summer program, *Pratt in South Africa*, and I'm currently a founding member of the *Initiative for Arts, Community, and Social Change*.

UNDERGRADUATE CHAIRS: 2 CANDIDATES FOR 1 SEAT

NOMINEE STATEMENTS

Kim Sloane, Assistant Chair, Foundation Art Undergraduate Chair, School of Art and Design

I have taught at Pratt since 1999, I began as a visitor, was made adjunct in 2004, promoted to Associate in 2008 and received CCE in 2009. In January of 2009 I began as Assistant Chair of Foundation. Most of my Pratt experience is as a member of the faculty, which I still consider myself to be, though some of my duties are now administrative. This combination of roles has broadened my perspective on Pratt and has helped me to understand the workings of the institute in a more holistic way.

This experience is combined with three years on the Senate and service on the Academic Programs and Policies Committee. I ran for the Senate initially, and I am running again, because I believe that the faculty and the faculty Senate as a body must play a primary role in the continual improvement of the education the students receive at Pratt. All of us are smarter than any of us.