Hello. My name is Jeff Baker, and I am honored to have learned that I’ve been nominated to stand for the Academic Senate Executive Committee’s position of Vice President. If elected, I promise to dedicate myself to continuing our senate’s practice of guarding our 10+1 responsibilities in the shared governance process, while fulfilling to my very best ability all of the regular as well as ad hoc responsibilities which accompany the VP position.

I have been teaching at Moorpark College for the past 20 years, and therefore possess considerable institutional history as a general member of the senate at large. I have also served one term as Senate VP, and three terms as Senate President in the early 2000s. In this sense, I also have a great deal of institutional memory and experience in the participatory governance process both on our campus and within the district.

In the years since my senate service, I have kept a low profile in matters of governance, though I have continued to serve (mostly as faculty gadfly, I’m afraid) on our Fiscal Committee, and also last year on Tech Cap. More importantly, though, I have returned to teaching with vigor, and with fresh knowledge (garnered from my years of senate service) of what I’ve come to prioritize so clearly as our institution’s primary responsibility—that is, to provide our students with the very best possible instruction that we can, keeping “students first,” while also ensuring rigor in my classes with a mind toward equity and accessibility. Serving as an officer in the senate taught me like no other experience the overarching importance of what happens in our classrooms—all other governance and administrative duties are, or ought to be, in support of that service.

I have also continued my scholarship and professional development, publishing articles in internationally refereed journals and books. And, perhaps as a capstone to my academic career, I was honored in 2018 with a Fulbright Specialist Award, a designation (along with its accompanying stipend) which facilitated my semester sabbatical as a Fulbright Professor at the University of Antwerp. In short, while I’ve been much less active in committees and governance, I’ve not been idle as a faculty member on our campus.

Professor John Davy, a long-since-retired member of our English faculty, told me upon my hiring that “I’d won the lottery and didn’t even know it.” I’m so grateful to say that mine, indeed, has been, and continues to be, a very full and rich experience as a member of the Moorpark family—I do feel like a lottery winner. I would very much love to express my gratitude for the life afforded me by our college and district in service as your Vice President. Thank you very much for this nomination and for your consideration.

Dr. Jeff Baker