

Vijay Golla:
CHHS

I am interested in serving on the University Academic Complaint Committee as I bring to the table not only a teacher's perspective but also a student's experience.

I am currently an Assistant Professor in the department of Public Health at Western Kentucky University. My PhD is in Occupational and Environmental Health from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. My doctoral research was on “pesticide exposures and absorbed doses of farm families in Iowa” and was awarded the Iowa Governor’s Occupational Health and Safety Council’s scholarship award in November 2004.

I am an alumnus of WKU and greatly enjoyed my education and research as a graduate student here. I earned my Masters degree in Public Health from WKU in 2003. While in Kentucky, I worked on environmental health issues specifically dealing with water quality and pesticides in farming communities of rural Kentucky. In April 2003, I was awarded the Kentucky Public Health Association’s Academic Excellence award.

Also, I was an international student and can relate to the academic and living adjustments of international students. I am a medical graduate from Andhra Medical College, Andhra Pradesh, India. Currently, as a faculty member at WKU, I am serving an international student organization and the Dept. of Public Health to help the international students in their education and experience at WKU.

The reason I am motivated to serve on this important committee is because, as a teacher I understand and implement the standards of quality education in my classes at WKU. As a former student at WKU, I also understand the learning issues and educational needs of students here. As a former international student, I understand the special needs, and cultural and educational system adjustment demands of an international student. I believe that I will be able to serve effectively on this committee because of my understanding of both teacher and student perspectives.

As such academic committees are vital to the realization of our university's vision of becoming a leading American university with international reach, I believe that I have the experience and dedication to serve on the University Academic Complaint Committee. I look forward to this opportunity to contribute my services to the university by serving on this committee.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Vijay Golla, PhD, MPH

Barbara C. Bush, Associate Professor
Department of Allied Health
CHHS

My desire to serve on the University Academic Complaint Committee stems from my years of serving on the University Academic Probation Committee. In 1998, I was elected to serve as the departmental representative on the University Academic Probation Committee and in 2001 was asked by Cheryl Chambliss (Director of Academic Advising at that time) to be a sub-committee chair. In addition to providing leadership to faculty members serving on the probation committee, this position involved meeting with students appealing the decisions made by committees. Often, the student presented additional information to which the committee did not have access when they made their decision. The decision made by the appeals committee had a tremendous influence over the students' future. I took this responsibility very seriously and served in this capacity until 2006.

If chosen to serve on the University Academic Complaint Committee, I would continue to ensure that all parties involved would be given a fair hearing and the decisions made would follow University guidelines and protocol. I would be able to conduct myself in an unbiased, professional manner, representing the University well.

Kimberly R. Cunningham, BGCC:

I completed my undergraduate degree in Communication in 1998 and my master's degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication in 2001 at University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I have been teaching for 7 years at the university level. I began teaching as a graduate assistant in the fall of 2001 and since that time have taught various courses in communication and freshman year experience. Since that time, my educational interest has focused primarily in developmental education. I am currently a full-time instructor in the Academic Support Division at Western Kentucky University teaching University Experience. On a needed basis I also teach speech courses for the Liberal Arts and Science Division.

I would like to serve on the student complaint committee simply because I am passionate about the needs and success of our students at Western Kentucky University.

Rick Thompson: BGCC:

I'm a native of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Southern Oregon State College with a BA in English, and I have an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Montana, where I taught as a graduate student. For nearly six years after graduate school, I taught developmental writing at Rogue Community College and freshman composition and introductory literature at Southern Oregon University. I'm in my fourth year as a WKU full-time faculty member at the South Campus, where I teach English for the Academic Support Division of Bowling Green Community College.

I think all these details are relevant because they show that I have worked with a diverse group of faculty and students over the years, which includes people from a very broad range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Furthermore, teaching literature and composition continually offers me opportunities to learn about, and think from, different perspectives, which is challenging at times but ultimately worthwhile to someone like me who is always seeking wisdom. In fact, these opportunities have been enhanced by the Critical Thinking Scholars Initiative WKU has offered to its faculty over the past two years; these workshops have improved my own critical thinking, one of the standards of which is fairness, something that is essential on a complaint committee, I'm sure. I'm interested in the University Academic Complaint Committee for many reasons. One is because the concepts of fairness and justice have always interested me, but at SOS, I was a Churchill Honors Scholar, which involved taking two years of ethics-based courses in an honors program. My background in ethics has most recently been enhanced by the Critical Thinking Scholars Initiative, so perhaps this is the larger reason I want to serve on the University Academic Complaint Committee--it would allow me to combine my knowledge of ethics and critical thinking skills with my experience of working with diverse groups of people to better serve the greater WKU family. (And as a tenure-track junior faculty member, I would be serving on a committee that actually interested me, not an "I've-got-to-find-a-committee-so-I-can-get-promoted" committee.) Thanks again for the email, and more importantly, the opportunity.

James Navalta: CHHS:

Completed doctoral studies at Purdue University and began teaching the Exercise Science curriculum at Southern Arkansas University, which is a small rural institution. At SAU served on the Institutional Review Board for the treatment of Human Subjects and led student-engaged trips to regional sites of interest for Exercise Science majors. Now in my third year at Western Kentucky University (also in Exercise Science) have initiated a number of student-focused programs, most notably a study abroad trip to Beijing and the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, and the

International Journal of Exercise Science, the only student-centered peer review publication of its genre. If asked to serve on the University Academic Complaint Committee I would strive to evaluate each situation with equity, work toward helping both parties understand the opposing issues in question, and would desire to aid in a fair and acceptable resolution.