Steve Collins · candidate for GFO Chair

As your GFO chair, I pledge to continue working to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of faculty governance. To this task I bring experience and knowledge of the issues before us. Having chaired the GFO Executive Council this past year, I participated in some of the most difficult and significant decisions this campus has faced, including the establishment of the lower division program, restructuring of the GFO committees, and engagement with our administration on improving faculty salaries. Next year will be no less challenging: the arrival of our first freshmen class, preparation of a new biennial budget in resource-constrained environment, renewal of the chancellor search, and planning for new majors and programs will demand strong, determined faculty leadership. I can’t deliver that leadership on my own. What I can do is leverage the prodigious energy and talents of this faculty as it is represented in its GFO committees, and through our reorganization of the GFO this year, we will have strong faculty structures in place to do the work. I pledge to give special attention in two areas. First is strategic planning for academic programs. I believe firmly in the need to expand our academic offerings into areas that will attract students, articulate with regional needs, and enhance our well-roundedness as a leading institution of higher education in our region. Second is shared governance. With new GFO structure in place, the next step is to bring a strengthened faculty voice into a conversation with the administration about the budget, strategic planning, and other crucial issues of faculty concern. I will do my best to promote community and collegiality, while ensuring that the faculty voice is heard in a way consistent with the established practices recommended by the AAUP.
Michael Goldberg · candidate for GFO Vice Chair

Even for an institution that seems to be in a constant state of flux, our campus experienced an unprecedented degree of challenges and opportunities this year, including the Chancellor’s search and the sudden imperative of a lower division, even as more appear on the horizon. We have worked through these changes with limited resources, uncompromising deadlines, and a high degree of turnover in the administration. Perhaps the most impressive achievement of the Executive Council this year was its recognition that faculty governance at UWB needed to be rethought and reorganized, from the structure and responsibilities of GFO committees to the faculty’s role in budget decisions. As Vice Chair of the EC, I would look forward to working with the EC to operationalize these suggested changes, for the devil will be not only in the details but also in the careful and steadfast effort to implement them in the most efficient and effective manner. The Vice Chair and Chair will need to establish strong lines of communication with the committees responsible for generating policy and strategy reports. Committees with broad mandates like the Instructional and Research Support Committee or the new Planning and Budgeting Committee will need to establish clear action agendas that generate reports that get considered by the EC in a timely fashion. The EC in turn will need to make certain that reports that are adopted are fully implemented. Further, I believe that the General Faculty Organization’s role should be formalized so that they have a voting role in all major decisions. (I would also like to see the GFO adopt a policy like that of the UW Faculty Senate that allows faculty members to formally excuse themselves from a meeting, thus making a quorum easier to attain.) Finally, I would like to see the EC take on issues not yet directly upon us but clearly in our future, like legislative calls for “accountability” and the faculty’s response to an Everett-based higher education facility. Hopefully, the EC will be able to have enough breathing space to plan ahead as more responsibility devolves onto the committees. All of this will take persistence and energy, two characteristics I have in abundance.
Mike Stiber · candidate for GFO Vice Chair

I am honored to have been asked by my colleagues to stand for election for GFO Vice Chair. Much has changed during the nine years that I've been part of the UWB community, but some things, for better and for worse, have stayed the same. These next two years promise to bring much additional change to our campus. Not only will we be hiring a new Chancellor and building a lower division program, but we will also need to grow in terms of the breadth of educational opportunities we offer. A four-year campus with only three undergraduate degree programs is not viable over the long term, nor can it be expected to maintain community or political support, as evidenced by reduced enrollment and the current push for a new, four-year campus in Snohomish County. It is imperative that the GFO work vigorously to advance the faculty's share of UWB leadership during these coming changes. Despite any trepidation that we might have over them, I am optimistic that we can shape events to our advantage and promote the core principles that make UWB special. I would be pleased to be selected to help lead us through this period. I believe that I, along with the Chair and members of the revised GFO committees, can pursue a planning process in which decisions are made based on academic merit and what is best for our students, faculty, and staff; this is the best way to achieve long-term enrollment stability and support. If you want to know more about me and my teaching and scholarship, my home page is at: