Remarks by the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, David Blakesley -

“Thank you, Provost Helms.

It was a great honor to be asked by the Faculty Senate and Senate President Jeremy King to serve as the Faculty’s Representative to the Board of Trustees last September. Jeremy and I have enjoyed meeting nearly every day since then, usually on the CATBus on the way to campus from the Anderson WalMart.

I came to the University just over two years ago to serve as the Campbell Chair in the English Department. After just a few months serving as the Faculty Representative, I can now report unequivocally and without reservation that I have been welcomed into the Clemson Family, embraced in a sea of orange, and have developed a love-hate relationship for the letters U-S-C (standing for my alma mater in Southern California and some other South Carolina interloper). My wife and I will celebrate our 20th anniversary in a couple of weeks, and I’ve talked her into postponing a trip to Bali in favor of one to Atlanta for the Chick-Fil-A Bowl. If that doesn’t prove my assimilation, nothing will. Resistance was futile.

The Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees serves as the voice of the faculty at the Board’s quarterly meetings and in the interim on the President’s Cabinet, Faculty Senate, Ombuds Office, and other groups that help meet our goals of shared governance, a principle to which I am committed. Toward that end, I encourage you to contact me by email (dblakes@clemson.edu), phone or text (765.409.2649), or in person in Strode 616 or anywhere else if you would like to talk about where we’ve been or where we’re headed. In fact, come say hello when you see me at the Clemson tailgater in Atlanta on New Year’s Eve. You can wish my wife, Julie, a happy anniversary and then we can chat about the Clemson 2020 Roadmap.

Until then, enjoy the holiday season, and I’ll see you in January when it starts all over again . . .

Thank you. Back to you, Provost Helms.”