

Pledge

First, I would like to express my gratitude for the nomination to a new term on the board. It is a role I value and approach with increasing modesty. The unique role of universities in democratic societies should never be taken for granted. A university's board carry some of the responsibility of protecting and fostering these fundamental values and statutes. As a link between the external and internal control of a university, the organization's influence on the board is thus of pivotal importance. To meet these demands and remain a leading university we need to attract and foster talent by providing excellent career opportunities for students and staff.

I pledge my commitment to the principle that facts and transparency should guide us, before and after every decision. My pledge is void of specific issues, even though we know they are many. I believe cooperation and debate are conducive to wise decision making. My role as a board member is to represent our collective opinion. In its purest form the role is well defined, but like most things, time and experience reveal more and more complexities. My understanding of the complex environment the boards operates in has definitely increased during my previous stints on the board, but so too has my conviction that we are obliged to fiercely protect the basic idea of universities as institutions of free and independent thought. We do this best by leading by example and protecting academic freedom.