Dear Senate Colleagues,

I am unable to attend today’s Academic Senate meeting due to a commitment I made long before this year’s Senate meeting dates were announced.  However, I understand that elections for the Senate Chair will begin today.  The purpose of this message is to address this important event.

I am a nominee for Senate Chair.  Prior to last month’s meeting, I had no intention of standing for election as Senate Chair.  In fact, I have very much enjoyed not being Senate Chair for this past year, which has allowed me to focus on matters regarding my final years as a YSU faculty member.  However, several people approached me following last month’s meeting and requested that I stand for election.  Their reasons: the Senate is floundering and not heading in a meaningful direction.  These same individuals related their longing for the Senate to return to what they perceive as relevance within the academic enterprise.  I concur with these assessments.

As you submit your votes for the Senate leadership in 2024, I would encourage you to consider the accomplishments of the past, where the Senate stands now, and where it should be in the future.  If you believe my impressions regarding the current state of the Senate are inaccurate, then you should vote for someone else.  My feelings and self-esteem will not be in any way damaged should you not vote for me.  I only care that the Senate return to being a vehicle that holds sway within the University and does so by enhancing academic excellence as defined by those whose life’s profession is centered in academia and not political or self-centered considerations.

Sincerely, Y and Proud,

**Chester R. Cooper, Jr., Ph.D.**

Professor, Biological Sciences