

Vivian U: Candidate for At-Large Trustee

Affiliation: University of California, Irvine

Position/Title: Assistant Astronomer

PhD institution: University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2012

Areas of scientific interest:

- Supermassive black holes
- Active galaxies
- Infrared galaxies
- Galaxy evolution
- Observational extragalactic astronomy

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- n/a

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Member, 2018 – present, UC Irvine Committee on Inclusive Excellent
- Executive Committee Member, 2015 – 2021, UC Irvine Women in Physics and Astronomy
- Physics and Astronomy Representative, 2017 – 2020, UC Irvine Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated to run for the AAS Board of Trustees, but I accepted the nomination not simply because I was grateful. My usual sense of humor aside, I take my responsibilities very seriously. Despite having impostor's syndrome as a relatively early-career member in our scientific community, I considered different aspects of this position and my personal fit for it before agreeing to be a candidate.

The Board of Trustees is a part of the AAS Strategic Assembly and governing body. In my view, the Board's task is to serve the Society and the community at large, adapting and implementing (but also challenging where necessary) the latest Strategic Plan set forth by the current Board. Qualities I possess that are suitable for this position: that I am an avid listener (and support



transparency and open communication between members and Society leaders as aligned with Strategic Priority #5); that I am a humble learner (it is useful, even as a junior woman of color with young children, to learn about the intersectional axes of privilege before I can help build truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices for all as part of Priority #2); and that I am a passionate mentor (where I value the professional and scholarly development of the less experienced generation of researchers and commit to facilitating their personal growth through viable means as part of Priority #3). I support actionable items, such as those listed in Priorities #1 and 4, including but not limited to advocating for policies on climate change or opportunities that broadly benefit our community and our science, as well as contributing my voice and effort toward building a network in which everyone feels welcome and comfortable enough to engage.

While writing succinct, coherent sentences for a candidate statement may not be part of my strength, I do intend to do my best to serve the Society and you all following the mission and vision of AAS as suited to our members. I urge you to vote for the best candidate who you think will best represent and advocate for you, and, to the extent each is able, get involved to make this a welcoming profession and community for all.