

Kayunta Johnson Winters

Associate Professor, University of Texas at Arlington

Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Member, ASBMB Council

[Webpage](#)

Statement of Interest

I am seeking re-election to the ASBMB Council after completing one term of service because I deeply value this society and the community of outstanding Biochemists and Molecular Biologists it represents. Over the past couple of years, ASBMB has navigated a period of significant change, and I am proud of the thoughtful, steady work the Council has done during this time. That work is not finished, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing to the progress and momentum we have built.

I am pursuing this position because I want to remain an active, engaged voice in service to ASBMB, an organization that I have grown to truly admire and that continues to inspire me as a Biochemist and educator. ASBMB has played an important role in my professional development, and I am committed to giving back through continued leadership and service. I strive to be a thoughtful mentor, a steady presence, and an advocate for decisions that serve the best interests of the society, its members, and its future.

It has been a privilege to serve ASBMB through the Maximizing Access Committee (2017–2023) and the Nominating Committee. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I worked to identify and recruit outstanding leaders from across the scientific community to serve in key roles, helping to strengthen the society and broaden engagement. My goal throughout this work has been to foster a strong sense of professional belonging and excellence within ASBMB. Through my service on the Maximizing Access Committee, and the I.M.A.G.E program, I contributed to initiatives aimed at strengthening the scientific enterprise and supporting the development of scientists at all career stages.

At my home institution, I have served in senior leadership roles with broad institutional impact, focused on mentoring, faculty development, and strategic service. I directed multiple federally funded STEM training programs across the undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and junior faculty levels, with responsibility for vision, execution, and long-term sustainability. I advised graduate student organizations, chaired a campus-wide faculty and staff network, and served on the President's Advisory Council, contributing directly to institutional decision-making and policy discussions. These experiences have shaped my approach to leadership as one that is collaborative, mission-driven, and grounded in service. I currently serve as Director of Undergraduate Research, where I oversee a portfolio of university-wide programs and lead cross-college initiatives and

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partnerships that expand access to research experiences, strengthen faculty engagement, and align undergraduate research with the university's strategic priorities.

As a continuing member of the ASBMB Council, I seek to advance the society's strategic priorities through active partnership with the president, executive director, and fellow council members. I am committed to effective governance, clear decision-making, and constructive engagement that will position ASBMB for sustained growth, relevance, and impact. My goal is to help ensure that ASBMB remains a dynamic and respected professional home for scientists today and in the years ahead.

Education and Training

- B.A., Alverno College
- Ph.D, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
- Postdoc, University of Arizona

Awards and Honors

- ASBMB Fellow, 2025
- National Recognition, NSF, PAESMEM Finalist, May, 2024 (Final selection was terminated by NSF)
- Academy of Distinguished Service Leaders, University of Texas at Arlington (2022)
- Silver EXCEL Award, Association Media & Publishing, for essay “Being Black in the Ivory Tower” in ASBMB Today (2021)
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, National Institutes of Health (2007 to 2009)

Relevant Experience

- ASBMB Council (2023-present)
- Director, Office of Undergraduate Research, UT Arlington, (2023-present)
- Member, ASBMB Maximizing Access Committee (2017 to 2023)
- Member, ASBMB Nominating Committee (2021 to 2023)
- Co-PI and Committee Member, ASBMB IMAGE Workshop
- iASPIRE Leadership Academy (2021 to 2023)
- Texas Academic Leadership Conference (TALA) (2020 to 2021)
- Texas Alliance of Black School Educators & Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (2021)
- Faculty Chair, Women's Faculty and Staff Network, UT–Arlington (2017 to 2022)