

PART 3 – NOMINEE STATEMENT

This section as submitted by the nominee will be posted to the public Senate Elections webpage to be viewed by prospective voters.

CANDIDATE INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

Staff Name: Alaa Al-Musalli, Ph.D.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES AT CAPILANO

During the past five years at Capilano University, I have been active on many committees, the most important of which is the Research Ethics Board, which I have been a part of for the past three and a half years to support faculty and students scholarly activities. Also, I served on the Business and Professional Studies Curriculum and Academic Planning Committee (CAPCom) for one year to review and support new initiative, programs, and courses that the faculty developed. Working on the CAPCom committee helped me learn about the Faculty of Business and Professional Studies and meet colleagues from across the three schools as well as other departments at CapU. Also, I am on the School of Communication's curriculum committee to revamp the offerings the school is providing as well as update the syllabi. I find this kind of service very rewarding as it helps me build on the work that colleagues before me had started. I also enjoy it because it helps me make use of my experience teaching at different universities in Canada and internationally. As far as teaching and program development are concerned, my biggest accomplishments at Capilano University have been: a) receiving the Teaching Excellence Award from the CTE in 2022, b) co-creating and facilitating a Student Advisory Council for the School of Communication which ran for one year to help with the school's program review research, c) developing two communications courses for the school of communication, namely CMNS 415 Disinformation and Media and CMNS 430 Civil Discourse and Democracy, and d) starting and co-developing a concept paper proposal for a Post-baccalaureate Diploma in Professional Business Communication with colleagues from the school of communication.

OTHER INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

My commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and interest in curriculum design has been very rewarding to me in many ways. For example, I was invited to work as a curriculum design consultant between August 2020 - January 2021 to support the Human Resources Certificate Program Renewal at the Continuing Studies at Simon Fraser University. I designed and co-facilitated five workshops to help a team of instructors plan a new program map and program goal and create course outcomes and objectives for new course offerings. On a personal level, I enjoy co-creating, innovating, and staying up to date with new trends in education, so I take any chance I get to join faculty learning communities to align my teaching and professional development with relevant trends in education and faculty vision. I am committed to making changes in the community and supporting students and faculty, and I am proud of the work that I have been able to do so far to spread the passion for data and fact-based information and decision making. I believe that I have a passion for service and educational leadership.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: (Not required by University Act. Maximum 400 words.)

I hold a Ph.D. in Linguistics, an M.A. in English Language and Linguistics, and a B.A. in English Language. I have a teaching career of over 23 years, including international experience in the Middle East and Europe. I have over three years of administrative and leadership experience, most recently at McGill University and prior to that at Qatar University in Doha. I was nominated to perform these important administrative duties based on my performance, organizational and communication skills, and passion for innovation and community building.

At McGill University, I held two main coordination positions from September 2016 to December 2017 with the School of Continuing Studies, Language and Intercultural Communication, in addition to teaching. I was the Academic Coordinator for Customized Programs, specifically the Semester Abroad with Internship Program which hosted students from Europe and South America for one term and provided them an opportunity to work in Montreal with a company that fit their work interests and fields of study. Besides overseeing the students' learning experience at McGill and ensuring that they are receiving tailored courses to fit their fields of study back home, my other administrative responsibilities entailed a) scheduling courses, workshops, and seminars, b) maintaining academic quality assurance measures, c) maintaining the program's partner companies database, d) interviewing students and planning their internship placements, and e) facilitating networking sessions.

Another role I held at McGill University was the Assistant Academic Coordinator for the Health Canada ESP Program. Some of my administrative duties included: a) providing training for instructors on the use of Adobe Connect to deliver synchronous English conversation classes to social workers and healthcare providers across Quebec, b) providing daily support for instructors, the course coordinator, and the administrative team of Health Canada, c) creating the program's test banks, d) validating testing techniques and creating test guidelines, e) creating resource documents for instructors to support best teaching practices and troubleshoot technical difficulties, f) creating support documents for students, g) revising and updating instructors manual and test rubrics; h) maintaining and updating the instructors' online sharing space, and i) maintaining curriculum alignment. I also supported this program through creating standard operation procedures and an instruction manual handbook to train instructors on how to use Adobe Connect to teach classes online in 2017.

At Qatar University, I held the Program Coordinator Position for first year courses in the Department of English and Modern European Languages for two consecutive years (June 2001 – June 2003). This involved a number of tasks, such as curriculum development, test writing, proofreading, book reviews and orders, exam bookings, and leading and reporting on meetings with course coordinators and faculty to the department chair and dean. My biggest accomplishment at my time as coordinator was to revisit and restructure the prerequisites for the courses offered with the help of my peers, based on surveys with faculty and students.

I am the kind of person who delivers and follows through. I believe that I will learn many new skills if chosen to serve on the senate at CapU, and I hope to bring to this role a new perspective based on my teaching and administrative experience as well as academic research.