

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: Mike Laurence

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES AT CAPILANO

I'm entering my third year as a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Cap U. In addition to teaching, I've been involved in the development of a host of new courses, as well as a member of different committees, such as the Squamish Operations Sub-Committee and the Committee that worked on the development of a Governance, Policy, and Justice program. I've also taught within the Interdisciplinary Studies program here.

OTHER INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

I have about twelve years of experience teaching at the university level across different institutions in Canada. I work in the field of critical political theory.

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

I'm a proud member of the Cap U community and interested in joining Senate for a few reasons. First, I think it is an important and valuable undertaking to engage in dialogue over what is best for the university and also how the university can best serve its function as a public institution.

My desire to run for senate is also driven by some of the challenges I've experienced as an instructor here, and my corresponding desire to help address them in a meaningful way.

These challenges include rampant student cheating and plagiarism (using both AI and more traditional methods); behavioural and mental health issues in the classroom; the stark divide between international and domestic students in many classrooms; declining overall student preparedness and performance, particularly among international students; student disengagement and absenteeism, and the increasing pressure and stress that instructors are put under when they are faced with these issues day in and day out. As I write this candidate statement, for instance, my inbox is filling up, once again, with desperate and emotionally laden emails where students beg and plead for a passing grade in order keep their study visas.

I believe that Cap can become the top teaching-focused university in the province, but there is a good deal of work to do first. Senate seems to me an important place where this work can and does happen. I plan to listen, to learn, and to keep the real conditions of the classroom in mind as I do so.