



NASA

Election Information

Message from the NASA Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Laura Ortegon-Rico

Dear NASA Member,

At the close of the nomination period for the **2025 annual election of NASA Executive Board members**, each open position received only one nomination.

The candidate for **Vice-President** is:

Chelsea Butler

The candidate for **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Chair** is:

Shenin Mehnaj

The candidate for **Membership Services Chair** is:

Angie Thomas

The candidate for **Human Resources Chair** is:

Elisia Snyder

As per the new [Election of Executive Officers Policy](#) passed by NASA members at the 2024 NASA Fall General Meeting, since each of these candidates is uncontested for their position **no vote will be required and these members are declared elected by acclamation**. They will assume their respective positions after the [Annual General Meeting \(AGM\)](#) on Wednesday, June 4.

I would like to thank the members who showed their support of NASA by nominating their co-workers and colleagues to these positions. You can read the biographies of these incoming Executive Board members.

Your CEO, Laura Ortegon-Rico

Chelsea Butler for Vice-President

As your current NASA Vice President for 2024-2025, I am excited to continue my work serving members on the Executive Board. In the last year I have deepened my relationships with the membership and partnered with other executive members to bring more education, advocacy, and connection opportunities to you- including last year's May Day March, our Inflation Lunch and Learn, and our recent All-Committee Organizing Retreat. As Chair of the Awards Committee, I listened to a member request and introduced a new essay award competition for high school students who are dependents of NASA members. This new award will provide an opportunity for your teenagers at home to learn more about the importance of the labour movement and earn money toward their education.



At the University, I am a Registered Social Worker and have worked on campus in student mental health since 2019. Currently I am seconded as the National Standard Coordinator, working on launching a new Student Mental Health Action Plan for the whole University, including Campus Saint Jean and Augustana. Prior to my employment at the U of A, I worked with vulnerable community members at a number of nonprofit agencies including Canadian Mental Health Association, John Howard, E4C, and the Elizabeth Fry Society. Through my education and work experience I have developed a passion for equity and countering injustice, which extends to the values I hold for our shared workplace and community. In addition to serving as VP, I have worked on the Member Action Team and served on the Strike Preparation Committee during our last two rounds of bargaining. I enjoy hearing from you about what matters for you in the workplace, and I hope to continue to passionately represent your interests on the NASA Executive Board.

Shenin Mehnaj

for

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Chair



Shenin (she/her) is a dedicated advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusivity at the University of Alberta. Over the past two years as EDI Chair with NASA, Shenin has helped lead projects that support Indigenous communities, celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ voices, and build cultural awareness across campus. She is passionate about building inclusive spaces and driven by personal values shaped by her upbringing and community engagement.

Originally from Dhaka, Bangladesh, she came to Canada as an international student and is now a permanent resident, graduate student (MSc AFNS, Food Safety and Quality specialisation), and Academic Program Coordinator in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation.

Outside of work and studies, Shenin enjoys South Asian dance, walks along the River Valley, and reading — she sets a personal goal of finishing 50 books each year.

Angie Thomas for Membership Services Chair

A highly organized and proactive Executive Assistant with over a decade of experience driving efficiency and providing exceptional support to senior executives. Proven ability to streamline operations and implement effective processes across diverse industries. Proficient in Microsoft and Google Suites, with a strong track record in event planning and office management.

Currently serving as the Department Administrator & Executive Assistant to the Acting Chair of Dentistry, building upon experience as the Executive Assistant to the Associate Dean of the Master's and Executive Office at the University of Alberta (August 2021- November 2024).



Actively contributes to the professional community as a member of the Membership Services Committee (2+ years) and a NASA Steward (1.5+ years). Further demonstrates commitment to organization and collaboration as the Secretary for the Electric Vehicle Association of Alberta board (2+ years).

Elisia Snyder for Human Resources Chair



Hello! My name is Elisia Snyder. I have served on the NASA HR Committee since 2023, and currently hold the HR Vice-Chair position. I have a long-time relationship with the University of Alberta, having started my undergraduate degree in English Literature at the Augustana Campus in 2011 and finished my MA in English at North Campus in 2017. I was hired to fill a maternity leave as a Technical Writer in the Hole School of Construction Engineering in 2018 which, in December of 2019, I was able to parlay into my current full-time position with the University of Alberta Press.

I pride myself on balancing a pragmatic and data-driven approach to decision-making with keeping people at the top of my priority list. I'm committed to building strong, resilient teams and fostering environments where people thrive. As the HR Chair, I will be a driver of organizational solidarity, foster inclusive cultures, and deliver measurable talent acquisitions and outcomes. I'm excited about the opportunity to lead with integrity, empower others, and help shape a forward-thinking HR strategy as your next HR Chair.