

Gampi Shankar: Why I would like to be considered for VP Of Academic Senate (A.S.)

Dear Committee members, colleagues and fellow community members,

I have been very actively involved in our community here at Canada College. In the 4 years I have been here, I have taken on the role of the faculty coordinator for the business interest area in Guided Pathways. More relevant to why I am applying here, is the fact that I believe the Academic Senate plays a key role and I have been an active participant and rarely, if ever, missed an academic senate meeting in the past few years.

Here's why I think I can make a difference and also how I think I may be a great fit for this:

1. I think there is a need for folks to step up the game in participatory governance (PG) and I feel I have a lot I can offer to help. I am not looking for this to be a career-enhancing move at this stage of my late-start career in this area.
2. I think there are strong needs from our immediate constituents in the A.S. that must be addressed, before we get to the next step of wanting better for all those in our community. My view is that this will need to come from collaboration rather than confrontation. Our problem-solving view must not be limited to faculty/classroom/library/counseling issues alone, but must include all aspects of learning for our students.
3. I am here every single day, on campus, and have been even during the days when I would barely see a handful of folks around campus. We talk a good game about wanting folks back on campus, I think I have lived it, if it counts for anything!
4. Furthermore, I have rarely missed an Academic Senate meeting in the past 2 years, even if I am not on the committee in an official capacity.
5. Having been active in Guided Pathways (G.P.) and working closely with colleagues across divisions, staff and administration all over campus, I have a better understanding of what this kind of position may entail.
6. I realize how important it is to work with all groups across our community and find ways to get things done.

I realize that participatory governance (P.G.) is over and above what is expected from us. No one asked me to sign up for the roles I took on from my earliest days here, but I felt strongly that it does need to be done. **Hopefully, the facts below will clarify why I believe I have a lot to offer:**

1. Besides being on G.P., I have been on the Tech. committee and am a vocal supporter of faculty needs. I have been active as a faculty advisor for the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honors society, for the Finance Club and even the Tennis Club.
2. I truly believe we need diversity in all aspects of our P.G. processes. We have a shortfall in this area of representation at the senior levels in the business interest-area/division (Business – BDW). This division often has the largest enrollments in our college, but is often under-represented in various areas across the college.
3. I would like to see that there is a balance from across all interest areas, which is at least one key aspect of what true diversity is all about. *I believe it is important that all of us get a chance to*

rotate in our positions in P.G. that will also encourage all-round participation, rather than have the same few people be in many committees or be the only voices and opinions that are being heard.

4. I do believe that I can work well with teams from all across our community and if being a good listener leads to better understanding and counts for something, I believe I can bring that to the table.
5. Both in highly structured and quite organic environments, I have been able to resolve issues by approaching it from a rational perspective. Ultimately, I like to create solutions that are sound and sustainable.
6. I am not confrontational, but at the same time, I am not afraid to speak up. I work well with people.

I offer myself up for this candidacy and hope that I can bring a fresh perspective and one that has no other agenda than to do well and do good for our college community.

Regards,

Gampi Shankar