

## Ashok Vaseashta

### **What is your leadership experience in CUR and outside of CUR?**

Leadership role "within CUR" serving second term as a national councilor. Within the Engineering Division, we have a very strong and dedicated team of members and continue to fill in roles, as needed with the CUR.

As per outside CUR "within my work profession" I have served in various roles as Director of Research, Vice Provost for Research and Executive Director for the office of Research at NJCU. Currently, I am serving a Visiting position and helping undergraduate and graduate students with the research projects, as I realize that conducting research provides real world experience of various fields of study. In addition, I have served as Strategic Research Advisor to the Federal Government for over nine years and also provide guidance to various universities and groups on matters relating to international security. I have served on various committees and within academic institutions, served on Provost Council and President's Cabinet.

### **Why are you interested in serving on the NVC and how does your past experience with CUR and or other organizations support your role on NVC?**

National vetting committee is an important committee, since members review nominations, approve candidates, and develop a slate of candidates for each open officer position. In addition, the NVC is charged with vetting candidates for Council and General Representatives to the Executive Board. I have previously served on committees to preselect candidates, interview, and finally select one candidate for each position. This is a highly involved process since we have to match the talent with the position and expected outcomes all without any personal inclinations. Having served in a similar role several times, I will be very delighted to serve on the vetting committee.

### **How will you represent and advance CUR-wide interests (please reference the CUR Mission and Strategic Plan)?**

The CUR's current mission statement is to support and promote high-quality mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry; as well as achieve the vision of enriching and advancing society through UR, scholarship, and creative inquiry, based on five main goals, viz. (1): Leadership for Undergraduate Research: Provide intellectual leadership for the field of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry. (2): Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: develop a culture and community that actively prioritizes diversity, equity, and inclusion. (3): Advocacy and Partnerships: Strengthen shared commitments to the value of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry. (4): Collaboration and Community: Build models of collaboration, cohesion, community, and impact that reach across CUR. (5): Accountability and Sustainability: Create an organizational culture of continuous evaluation and assessment that balances advancement of the mission with fiscal responsibility and sustainability. Although, my primary focus has been on the intellectual leadership to enhance research, I consider all aspects equally important. In representing

and advancing CUR wide interests, it is critical to assess contribution of each facet in making a final decision. Nothing is perfect, however, it is critical that we strike a strategic balance.