WHY YOU SHOULD VOLUNTEER TO BE A THOUGHT LEADER

Why become a Division Councilor?
The dedication of CUR Division Councilors is essential to enhancing the vitality and efficacy of the organization. Councilors share a passion for undergraduate research and a desire to assist mentors and institutions in establishing and sustaining effective research programs with undergraduates.

What is the structure of CUR’s Divisional Leadership?
Division Councilors are elected on a staggered schedule. With both experienced and new councilors comprising each division, there is a place for new ideas and voices along with a continuity in the work being done. The Division Council is lead by a Division Chair, elected to a three-year term from within the group of councilors. A division may have other officer positions, including a Vice Chair or Secretary, elected by the Division Council to help assist with the duties of the division. Your division is supported by our National Office team. They serve as a partner to support the execution of divisional action plans.

What are Division Councilor responsibilities?
The responsibilities of CUR Councilors include but are not limited to:
1. Provide subject matter expertise to their division.
2. Support the creation of programs and workshops for the organization.
3. Provide thought leadership to committees and taskforces.
4. Be an ambassador of CUR’s mission.

What are some Division Councilor expectations?
• Councilors are to be supporters of and leaders in promoting, mentoring, and involving undergraduate students in research, scholarship, and creative activity.
• Councilors will work with other Division Councilors to create collaborative solutions to the issues faced by the undergraduate research community.
• Councilors will learn and collaborate across CUR.
• Each councilor participates in their division’s activities and may also actively serve on a committee. Additionally, you may look to contribute through ad-hoc opportunities such as serving as a reviewer for SPUR or as a session facilitator or reviewer for NCUR. These roles are not restricted to councilors, but are a great way to engage members of the community in CUR.
• All councilors and councilor nominees must be members of CUR (note: membership may come from the individual; or as part of an institutional or enhanced membership).

Being a CUR Councilor means being a part of a gifted community of scholars and researcher who passionately strive to shape the future by investing their time and talent in preparing our undergraduate researchers to rise, shine, and lead. Being a CUR councilor has blessed me with a two-fold gift. First, discovering the avenues that I needed to explore, and second, discovering the opportunities to give back for shaping a better future.

Hasseeb A. Kazi, PhD | Trine University Chair, CUR Mathematics and Computer Sciences Division

By being a CUR Councilor I gain direct access to the support of other undergraduate research enthusiasts and professionals, and the range of resources for supporting UG research that CUR provides. This saves me time in many ways - not least in being able to draw on others when I have a UG research question. Fellow councilors are incredibly supportive, the CUR office is always responsive, and the impact on my semester time is so little for what I gain by being a CUR Councilor that being a Councilor is possibly one of the nation’s best kept academic secrets!

Graeme Harper, PhD | Oakland University Chair, CUR At-Large Division

My continuing engagement in CUR informed my contribution to the UR community at my institution. There, with my colleagues, I initiated strong advocacy for the adoption of UR in my school and coursework; invested deliberately in the practice of mentoring of undergraduate research and curriculum design; and worked with others to provide opportunities for student participation in undergraduate research.

Ruth J. Palmer, PhD | The College of New Jersey, Emeritus President, Education Division Councilor