



COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

## **2023-2024 Elections**

### **Physics and Astronomy Division: Councilor Slate**

**Position Purpose:** The CUR Council is a multidisciplinary body providing advisory input to the Board, so they have a broader perspective when making resource investment decisions. The Council serves in a communication capacity, surfacing key items arising from the Divisions, bridging the insight of the Division to the work of CUR as a whole, and serving as one means of information and resource dissemination from the central organization to the Divisions and members. The CUR Council is a newly developed body of volunteer leaders for this election cycle.

#### **Needed Qualifications:**

- Strong communication skills
- Previously served as a Division Councilor is a plus, but not required
- Membership with CUR
- Can not be serving concurrently as a Division Representative

*There is 1 individual running.*

*You may vote for the candidate presented to be elected as a councilor for this division.*

*This division will also be accepting write-In candidates for this election cycle.*

Candidate information is presented on the following pages. Click on the candidate name below to be taken to their Information In the document.

- [Hasitha Mahabaduge](#)

# Hasitha Mahabaduge, Georgia College & State University

## *Physics and Astronomy Division Nominee*

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

#### **Describe your leadership experience both within CUR and extramural.**

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) is a primarily undergraduate institution. I serve as a Co-Director of our Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (MURACE) program. The program I co-lead now is the recipient of 2020 CUR Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA) award. Together with my colleagues I uphold the award-winning standards of our program. I also serve as the Director of Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program at GCSU. VIP Program is a transformative approach to enhancing higher education by engaging undergraduate students in ambitious, long-term, large-scale, multidisciplinary project teams that are led by faculty. As one of the five CUR councilors at my institution, and as a co-director of our MURACE program, I serve as one of the faculty advisors for the Undergraduate Research Circle at GCSU (Grassroots students organization lead by a group of students who have published and presented research or creative endeavors who are interested in helping other students do the same). As of now I serve as the Principal Investigator of three active grants worth over 0.8 million including an NSF S-STEM grant. The other two grants are multi-institutional grants. I started my journey as a CURPA councilor in 2018. During my time as a CURPA councilor, I have worked with my fellow councilors and have provided my contributions, especially when a collective input was required during the development stages of the CUR's 2020-2025 strategic plan. I first served as the division representative and now as an editorial advisory board member on the CUR's scholarly journal, Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research (SPUR).

#### **How will your skills help the Council successfully uphold its charge?**

At Georgia College & State University (GCSU) I serve on several advisory boards at university level including Honors Faculty Council and Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Board. As a member of these advisory boards I serve as a liaison for students and faculty alike. The charge of the newly minted CUR Council is similar to the responsibilities I have held at university level. GCSU is the designated liberal arts university in the state of Georgia. As a Co-Director of our MURACE program and Director of Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program I collaborate with fellow faculty and students from different disciplines and have learnt the skills necessary to work collaboratively in multidisciplinary settings. In 2022, I chaired the committee that crafted the "Framework for Success: undergraduate Research" at GCSU, where I got the opportunity to work with and learn from faculty members from different disciplines and work on a common framework that captures the success of undergraduate research representing all disciplines at GCSU.

([https://www.gcsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2023-12/Framework%20for%20Success\\_Undergraduate%20Research.pdf](https://www.gcsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2023-12/Framework%20for%20Success_Undergraduate%20Research.pdf)). I have used and continue to use my skills to successfully uphold the charge of CUR Councilor and I believe serving as a CUR Councilor is mutually beneficial for me, my college and CUR.

### **NOMINEE ABBREVIATED CV**

An abbreviated CV highlighting the candidate's accomplishments with respect to undergraduate research is available on the next page.

# Hasitha Mahabaduge

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## EDUCATION

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The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH, USA

**Doctor of Philosophy**, Physics, December 2013

The University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Bachelor of Science** (Honors in Computational Physics), July 2007

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Aug. 2023- present: **Co-Director**, Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA, USA

Aug. 2021-present: **Director**, Vertically Integrated Projects Program, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA, USA

Aug. 2021-present: **Associate Professor of Physics**, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA, USA

Jan. 2016-July 2021: **Assistant Professor of Physics**, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA, USA

July 2019-Aug 2019, Dec 2019: **Visiting Scholar**, Institute of Electrical Engineering Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

June 2017-Aug 2017, June 2021-Aug 2021: **Summer Faculty Research Fellow**, Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, NE, USA

Feb. 2014-Dec. 2015: **Postdoctoral Researcher**, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Golden, CO, USA

May 2009-Dec. 2013: **Research Assistant**, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH, USA

Aug. 2008-May 2009: **Teaching Assistant**, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH, USA

July 2007-June 2008: **Physics Instructor**, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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## HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2022 - VIP Consortium Award for Innovation in Partnership Building
- 2020 - Fellow of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- 2020 - Felton Jenkins Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Board of Regents - University System of Georgia Foundation
- 2019-2020 - Governor's Teaching Fellow
- 2020 - Georgia College, College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award
- 2019 - Georgia College Excellence in Teaching Award
- 2019 - Honorary member of Eta Sigma Alpha, Georgia College Honors Student Society
- 2018-2019 - Georgia College Center for Teaching and Learning Active Learning Fellow
- 2018 - Honored as the most respected professor during collegiate career, GC athletics
- 2017-2018 - USG Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Fellow
- 2016 - The Russell Library Faculty Fellow

## **GRANTS AWARDED**

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- 2023- Partnerships for Inclusive Innovations (\$ 100,494)  
Project: A Workforce Development Study in Solar Technology & Ecoentrepreneurship for the Greater Milledgeville Region  
Role: PI
- 2023- Georgia Foundation for Public Education (\$ 25,000)  
Project: Promoting a Rural Essential and Sustainable STEM (PRESS) Partnership through High Impact Practices  
Role: PI
- 2021- National Science Foundation S-STEM grant (\$ 650,000)  
Project: Increasing Graduation Rates of Undergraduate Chemistry and Physics Majors by Connecting College to Careers  
Role: PI
- 2021- Georgia Research Alliance (\$ 25,000)  
Project: Implementation of a Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program  
Role: PI

## **PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS / CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS)**

#High School\*Undergraduate <sup>a</sup>Physics Scholar

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- 7 peer reviewed journal publications (2 with undergraduate/high school students)
- 28 conference proceedings and presentations (13 with undergraduate students)

## **SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS)**

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- 21 conference presentations in Teaching and Learning conferences within the past five years (8 with undergraduate student co-presenters)

## **STUDENTS' RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

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- A total of 17 oral/poster presentations by students at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research from 2017-2023
- A total of 8 poster presentations by students at the Posters at the Georgia State Capitol event from 2018-2023