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.
EDUCATION

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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
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

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

• 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

• 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 #Physics Scholar

• 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)

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

STUDENTS’ RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

• 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