

### 2023-2024 Elections Mathematical, Computing, & Statistical Sciences Division: Division Representative Slate

**Position Purpose:** The work of Divisions is done by Division Representatives who advance undergraduate research by providing networking opportunities, activities, and educational content. Their aim is to create and foster community and value within the organization. Representatives support the members of their division in activities and programs that align with the CUR strategic plan, mission, vision, and values.

### Needed Qualifications:

- Familiar with CUR and it's mission
- Passionate about or had mentor experience in undergraduate research
- Showcases thought leadership in undergraduate research
- CUR Membership (once elected)
- Previous volunteer experience, not required but

### There are 3 individuals running.

### You may vote for both candidates presented to be elected as representatives 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 each candidate name below to be taken to their Information In the document.

- <u>Charlotte Simmons</u>
- <u>Haseeb Kazi</u>
- Yunus Zeytuncu

### **Charlotte Simmons, University of Central Oklahoma**

Mathematical, Computing, & Statistical Sciences Division Nominee

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

## Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

In alignment with my home institution's commitment to providing "transformative learning" opportunities to students, I have made undergraduate research an academic priority throughout my tenure of two and a half decades at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). As a faculty member, I mentored a number of undergraduates in research and worked to attain extramural funding to support the engagement of undergraduates in research, including as the PI of the National Science Foundation grant that funded the Mathematical Association of America Travel Award program for five years, allowing undergraduates in mathematics to present their research results at the Joint Mathematics Meetings and/or MathFest. Throughout my service as an administrator (Department Chairperson, Dean, and Provost), I have had the opportunity to support and promote participation in undergraduate research, including through utilizing faculty development incentive models.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I served for several years as the Program Coordinator for a nine-institution consortium National Science Foundation STEP program in the state of Oklahoma that funded Summer Bridge, a four-week residential orientation program for incoming STEM freshmen with a central theme of exposing participants to undergraduate research: 58 percent of the participants were from underrepresented groups. Likewise, I served as PI of a companion National Science Foundation S-STEM grant that provided scholarships for up to four years to Bridge alumni with financial need, encouraging them to engage in undergraduate research throughout their baccalaureate education rather than seeking external employment: 57% of the S-STEM participants were women and 42% were minority students. An intense and sustained focus on recruiting and retaining students from diverse backgrounds through programs such as these was no doubt a contributing factor to the College of Mathematics and Statistics becoming the first on campus to be majority minority in 2016. Throughout my tenure as an administrator, I have worked to recruit, retain, and support talented faculty, staff, and students from diverse backgrounds.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

As noted above, I have had the opportunity to be engaged in a number of initiatives on my own campus that align with the CUR strategic plan, mission, vision, and values, as well as at the state and national level, including through service on the Oklahoma Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Broader Impact Committee, the Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Deans' Council, and for the Mathematical Association of America. I have served three terms as a CUR Councilor and currently serve on the CUR Board of Directors. I would be able to utilize my experiences as both an educator and an administrator to advance this charge.

## If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

As noted above, I have served three terms as a CUR Councilor and currently serve on the CUR Board of Directors.

### Haseeb Kazi, Trine University

Mathematical, Computing, & Statistical Sciences Division Nominee

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

Being an applied mathematician and a Professor of Mathematics, along with more than 12 years of service as the Director for our university's Study Abroad Program (including credit-bearing research internships, curriculum design, implementation, and assessment), my ongoing association with CUR including the current role of MCS Division Chair -which began in 2022 - has allowed me to play a more impactful role in supporting the mission of my institution while also upholding CUR's vision and strategic goals. I designed the first version of our department's capstone math course at a predominantly-teaching institution in 2008. This course included mandatory research projects. While leading the course for 11 years, I truly enjoyed coordinating and evaluating numerous research projects. Mandatory research projects still continue to be a significant component of my senior courses. My students in lower-level courses such as Calculus Sequence and Differential Equations also like knowing that they will be required to work on a few group research projects. During the past 12 years of my service as faculty advisor of our Math Club - also a student chapter of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) - I was able to introduce and advise the Problem of the Week contest, start Student Talk Series, lead the Annual Math Kids Night and Elementary Math Contest for area schools, and supervise UR projects that resulted in presentations at our Indiana MAA meetings, amongst several other initiatives. Another aspect of incorporating UR practices into my instruction was advising our Math Club officers in designing and submitting problems for inclusion in Michael Sullivan and Kathleen Miranda's Calculus textbook (first published in 2014). All of those submissions were accepted. In sum, starting with a 4-day UR workshop/training in 2011, my ongoing association with CUR has been proving to be beneficial, enjoyable, and productive.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

During the first two years of 2022-2025 term of my service as CUR MCS Division Chair, I helped in preparing the application and formally launching the MCS Inclusivity Award through CUR's official website. We collected the comprehensive past membership data and studied it to form a well-balanced group of scholars and academics ranging from two-year to R1 research institutions of higher learning. With my fellows' support, I took the challenge of securing approval for our long-standing name-change proposal. Our division was formerly called Mathematics and Computer Sciences. Currently it is known as the Mathematical, Computing, and Statistical Sciences Division. This revised name is a befitting choice of ownership, inclusion, and identification of all disciplines that we represent. This also helps in broadening the spectrum and facilitating the direction and accommodation of the program review requests that are received and completed by our division. I helped in envisioning a plan of budget allocation for diversifying our student awards sponsorship. For example, in 2023, we have sponsored a newer NCUR award. In my tenure as MCS Chair, a new seminar series was successfully launched that has provided a divisional platform to a diverse community of presenters and attendees for sharing their success strategies and high-impact practices in UR promotion, adoption, implementation, supervision, and assessment. During my six-year (2013-2019) service as Secretary on the executive board of the Indiana MAA, we supported the National Math Alliance program, a diverse community of mentors for undergraduate and graduate students. My six-year service (ending in Jan. 2023) on the Editorial Board for Classroom Resource Materials of the MAA allowed me to serve the discipline and community by reviewing a diverse range of books

jointly published by the MAA and AMS. This has included a 2019 book on Mentoring Undergraduate Research in Mathematics.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

With support from colleagues, I've set and submitted two annual strategic actions plans and mid-year progress reports for the MCS Division, gaining insights to enhance ongoing practices and envisioning more impactful initiatives. With the help of CUR's national office and my colleagues, I have coordinated the redesigning of our divisional webpage, and as a result, our divisional community space has been created. I, along with the members of the MCS Communication and Outreach Committee, have begun implementing strategies to effectively utilize the official community space for promoting our activities and programs in alignment with CUR's strategic plan, mission, vision, and values. In terms of skills as a practitioner and a team member, my diverse experience and trainings through multiple organizational platforms such as NAFSA (Association of International Educators), Gilman Scholarship Program, Fulbright Scholars Program, MAA committees and boards, CUR program review, CUR committee work, and CUR taskforce assignments and divisional leadership have all effectively taught me how to productively employ and uphold the organizational norms, values and strategic goals. As a multitasker, I've learned to integrate experiences from supporting platforms and identifying overlapping values/strategies for mutual reinforcement. This cross-pollination of knowledge, gained through my roles in Indiana MAA as Chair-elect (2023-2024), Chair (2024, 2025), and Past Chair (2025-2026), will enhance teamwork and leadership in my CUR position. Two of my upcoming MAA editorial board assignments - starting in 2024 - will equip me with more inspiration to continue giving my best to my job as our divisional liaison to CUR's Program Review Committee.

# If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

During my three separate 3-year terms, I have served as:

- Both member and Chair of the Faculty Mentor Awards Committee
- Member of the Budget and Finance Committee
- Member of CUR's Program Review Committee as well as divisional liaison to the committee
- "Posters on the Hill" program reviewer
- NCUR reviewer
- World CUR reviewer
- CUR Internationalization Taskforce member
- CUR Database Taskforce member
- Interim Chair of the Mathematics and Computer Sciences Division
- Chair of the Mathematical, Computing, and Statistical Sciences Division

### Yunus Zeytuncu, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Mathematical, Computing, & Statistical Sciences Division Nominee

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

I work at a regional campus where most of the students are commuters. Dearborn's undergraduate research has a life-changing impact on our students. However, a few years ago, we realized that even though many students and faculty members were conducting research, there was no central support structure in place to involve more students. To address this issue, my colleagues and I established the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2018. Since its inception, the program has facilitated numerous projects and significantly increased student involvement in research initiatives. We provided stipends for participating students and offered a comprehensive professional development program for everyone involved. In September, we held a campus-wide showcase for summer projects, which eventually transformed into a campus-wide celebration that included students, faculty members, and the Detroit community.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I have been the Principal Investigator (PI) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site in Mathematical Analysis for the past 11 years. Our program has successfully maintained over 50% female participation and over 30% participation from underrepresented groups in mathematical sciences. Additionally, I am one of the co-founders of the Polymath Jr. program, an online program that enables hundreds of students to participate in traditional REUs for various reasons, including residency and citizenship requirements. We have worked tirelessly at the University of Michigan-Dearborn to maintain these impressive recruitment numbers, and I believe that my experience in this area would be an asset to URSCA.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

I have been serving as a CUR representative for several years and am also a member of the MAA's SIGMAA UR. I actively participate in the REU Directors email server and have been running the UM-Dearborn Math REU program for some time now. Additionally, I have helped numerous other institutions to initiate similar summer programs.

# If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

I collaborated with my colleagues to foster better collaboration between professional groups that share similar goals. These groups include CUR, MAA SIGMMAs, Polymath Jr. and other meetings attended by REU directors. My aim is to promote and increase collaboration between these groups.