

2022

ELECTION

INFORMATION

PACKAGE

ELECTION DATES

Monday, May 2 – Tuesday, May 3

NAIT ACADEMIC STAFF ASSOCIATION



MESSAGE FROM THE RETURNING OFFICER

Voting will take place between 8:00 am on Monday, May 2 and 4:00 pm on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

The 2022 NASA election will be carried out using (**Simply Voting**) electronic balloting. Detailed instructions on how to access the website will be circulated to the membership one day prior to the start of elections and on each subsequent day of the election. Your NAIT ID number is required for sign-in.

The attached Nomination List (page 3) outlines the list of candidates and the numbers to be elected for each position. A number of candidates have been acclaimed as only one candidate was nominated. This package also contains pictures of the candidates and brief biographies. Candidate information will also be connected to the electronic ballot.

The results of the election will be circulated via email to the members on or before 5:00 pm on May 3, 2022.

NOMINATION LIST – 2022

Communications Vice-President <i>(two-year term)</i>	Candidate #1 Candidate #2	Anna Beukes Paula Hawrysz	Elect 1
Membership Services Vice-President <i>(two-year term)</i>	Candidate #1 Candidate #2	Gordon Cutting Peter Kamstra	Elect 1
Executive School Representatives			
JR Shaw School of Business <i>(1 - two-year term)</i> <i>(Representing members in programs under the JR Shaw School of Business, and members from the Learning & Teaching Commons Librarians, Research)</i>	Candidate #1	Irene Kirby-Frith	Acclaimed
School of Health and Life Sciences <i>(Representing members in programs under the School of Health and Life Sciences, and members from Student Life)</i> <i>(1 - two-year term)</i> <i>(1 - one-year term)</i>	Candidate #1 No nominations received for the one-year term.	Carmen Puchyr	Acclaimed
School of Skilled Trades <i>(Representing members in programs under the School of Skilled Trades)</i> <i>(1 - two-year term- Souch Campus)</i> <i>(1 - two-year term- Any Location)</i>	No nominations were received for any of the vacant positions.		
School of Applied Science and Technology <i>(Representing members in programs under the School of Applied Science and Technology)</i> <i>(1 - one-year term)</i> <i>(2 - two-year terms)</i>	No nominations were received for any of the vacant positions.		
STANDING COMMITTEES			
Finance Committee <i>(4 Representatives Required: one-year term)</i>	Candidate #1 Candidate #2 Candidate #3 Candidate #4	Olukemi Fasipe Susan Hurley Terry Sulyma Starr Zhang	Acclaimed
Communications Committee <i>(4 Representatives Required: two-year terms)</i>	No nominations received.		

Membership Services Committee <i>(4 Representatives Required: two-year terms)</i>	No nominations received.		
Academic Council <i>(3 Representatives Required: two-year term)</i>	Candidate #1	Mark Schneider	Acclaimed
Board of Governors Representative <i>(1 Representative Required: three-year term)</i>	Candidate #1 Candidate #2	Mark Schneider Tanya Spencer	Elect 1

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

COMMUNICATIONS VICE-PRESIDENT- Elect One (1)

Anna Beukes



I am putting my name forward for the VP Communications position for NASA.

For the past year I had the privilege to serve as a Table Officer – it was such a good experience that I would like to continue doing it. 😊

Despite all the challenges we faced as a NASA community over the past year – vaccine mandates, a collective agreement ratification decision and staff turnover at the NASA office – working with Shauna MacDonald, Gordon Cutting and James Guthrie (the other three Table Officers) is such a rewarding experience that I would love to continue doing it, should you elect me again.

As your VP Communications I will continue to build on the good work Gordon Cutting did for the past 6 years. In addition to the Intercom, NASA can benefit from a blog where NASA members can exchange thoughts and ideas on a continuous basis. In collaboration with the NASA communication committee, I will establish a blog like that. It will be an online space where stimulating thoughts are exchange. People from outside NAIT, including from the wider labour community, will be invited to contribute to this conversation. All the speakers who participated in our “Lunch and Learn” speaker series this year, will be invited back to contribute to our blog. For a complete list of who these speakers were, please see the report I submitted for the NASA AGM. The recordings of most of these sessions are also still available on the NASA website.

For those of you who don’t know me, I teach finance in the school of business and have been doing so for the past 14 years. I was ACIFA President between 2016 and 2020. My PhD is from Rhodes University in economics.

When selecting your Table Officers team, I want to encourage you to stick with the existing group – there is no reason to break up a winning team! If the year behind us was challenging, there is no reason to think the year ahead will be less so. An established leadership team is more likely to be successful when facing uncertainty and adversity.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me (annab@nait.ca) if you have questions or comments.

I trust I can count on your support.

In service, always

Anna Beukes, PhD

Instructor, JR Shaw School of Business NAIT

Paula Hawrysz



I have been with NAIT for 20 years as an instructor in the Chemical Technology Program. I have also taught chemistry to students from many of NAIT’s other programs. I have participated on many committees, focus groups and teams for NAIT, NASA and external. Some of these include Alberta Skills, NAIT Student Clubs, Edmonton Regional Science Fair, and minor sports club executive.

Having been a part of the NASA communications committee since 2018, I have actively participated in all facets of the committee’s responsibilities. I have played an integral part in the procurement, design and development of the new NASA logo and I am part of the legislative committee that reviews and edits the NASA policies and by-laws. I have assisted in the organization and promotion of the annual Share the Warmth Campaign.

Since 2017, I have also been on the NASA executive as a representative for the School of Applied Sciences and Technology. I am very familiar with the protocols and expectations of the positions held by executive members.

With this experience, I now feel that the time has come for me to seek the position of Vice-President Communications for the NAIT Academic Staff Association. I am excited to offer my knowledge and experience to my NASA colleagues.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES VICE-PRESIDENT – Elect One (1)

Gordon Cutting



Gordon Cutting graduated from the University of Alberta in 1997 with a B.Sc. specializing in Mathematics and Physics. After teaching briefly at the U of A he began working at NAIT in 1998 and has been an Instructor at NAIT ever since.

Since 2012 he has been teaching in the Instrumentation Eng.Tech. Program, but before that he has taught for HVAC/BEST and prior to that the Physics Department. This experience gives him a unique outlook on teaching here at NAIT and the challenges faced by the varied and diverse programs NAIT delivers, both in the Technologies and Apprenticeships.

These past 24 years have been enlightening and overwhelming at times, but Gordon believes that we, the instructors at NAIT, deliver the most comprehensive and relevant education in the province and he intends to fight to ensure that we can continue to do so.

Personal message from Gordon:

I have been involved with NASA for the last 14 years, with the last 6 years spent as VP Communications. Through those years we have seen a great deal of change, both positive and negative, and in the last two years of the pandemic we have seen a completely uncontrolled experiment with how we deliver content and connect with our students. I believe the oversight that we have tried to manage on the part of the Staff Association has been vital during these changes to ensure that staff issues and concerns are addressed and dealt with. This oversight will be especially important as we discuss the future pressure of being expected to deliver more content online while at the same time likely receiving less funding from our provincial government.

As a future VP Membership Services I hope to reinitiate on-campus, in-person events. At the same time we can hopefully maintain and expand some of the favorite on-line events that we have experienced in the past two years for the benefit of the members who cannot engage during working hours or after hours, or who chose to work predominantly from home.

Connection and engagement will be the theme of the next year, and I hope to bring us all closer than we have ever been before.

The members of NASA need to draw together to defend against the erosion of the quality of our work and student engagement. At the same time we need to find ways to understand the needs of each program and school so that we can push back against management and government as a cohesive unit. Our best path forward is to find a way that we can continue to be one of the best post-secondary institutions in the country, despite the budgetary and political pressures that we face.

Please vote for me, Gordon Cutting, as VP Membership Services in the coming NASA election. Thank you.

Gordon Cutting
Instrumentation Instructor, NAIT

Peter Kamstra



Hello,

My name is Peter Kamstra, and I am running to represent you as VP of Membership Services.

In an effort to gain your support I would like to share with you why I feel I am a good fit for this position.

I have volunteered for NASA as a school rep in trades for the last 12 years, I have served on 3 different bargaining committees/teams over the years including the last round of bargaining which lasted for almost 2.75 years. Despite several challenges, including an initial rollback offer, our bargaining team was able to negotiate a satisfactory contract for our members.

For me, NASA is a very important organization that represents and supports you. As a VP of membership services, I would advocate for getting back to more face-to-face activities, which have been sorely missed over the last 2 years due to Covid. I hope that we all will be back for NASA's welcome back luncheons in September. These social activities are important as they help remind all of us that NASA is here to work for you.

For several years now NAIT has begun to reevaluate the way it does business. The Alberta Government has cut funding and issued mandate letters to Alberta's post-secondary institutions to keep wages down and in part force these institutions to find other sources of revenue. For example, this has forced NAIT to resort to using more casual employees and fewer full-time employees.

As a result of recent legislation NASA is now a union with the ability to strike or to be locked out by the employer. Gone are the days of arbitration. NASA and NAIT must now work out their issues in Collective Bargaining. To do this we must have a strong and independent organization which is able to stand up to Alberta Government and NAIT itself when necessary.

It is more important than ever that NASA become stronger and more independent to combat any changes that could weaken our association's ability to fight for you.

I hope with your support I can use my experience, as a VP and as one of the Table Officers, to help ensure NASA is properly prepared for the years to come.

Regards,
Peter Kamstra

EXECUTIVE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE – JR Shaw School of Business

**Irene Kirby-Frith
Acclaimed**



I have been serving the academic faculty of JRSSB as a school rep for the past 4 years and would like to continue to do so. I feel that my involvement with NASA has benefited those who I represent and that I am making a difference for my colleagues.

I have been an instructor with NAIT since 2004 and with Fairview College for the 9 years prior to that. I feel I understand the issues that come with being an instructor at NAIT. The many management positions I have held at NAIT, and Fairview college have given me some insight into both sides of the unionized workplace. I am very much pro-union and the benefits and responsibilities that go along with that environment. I recently walked the Concordia University picket line in solidarity with their faculty association and attended the March rally in support of the striking U of L faculty. I will stand up for all instructors in JRSSB and the entire institution.

EXECUTIVE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE – Health and Life Sciences

**Carmen Puchyr
Acclaimed**



Hi all! I am a two-time NAIT graduate (RDA '98 and DMS '11) and have been an instructor here at NAIT for almost 10 years in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. I have served the last two years as the SHLS Representative. We are coming out of an unprecedented time of challenges and changes here at NAIT and I am confident that I can continue to bring your concerns to the association and to NAIT as well. I believe that strong lines of communication between school representatives and NASA members is imperative for representatives to do their best job. One of the things I implemented for members was monthly townhalls where we can gather to talk about what's going well and what can be improved in NAIT's relationship with NASA. I believe our members are often the best people to reach out to for solutions to the challenges that NAIT is currently facing, and it remains a goal of mine to solicit those suggestions and bring them forward. If successful, I look forward to serving the association and its members for another term.

I am a proud member of NASA and have a keen interest in making sure all its members are fairly represented. I believe that my enthusiasm and background in two quite different health sciences programs will help me to be a great Representative for the school.

EXECUTIVE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE – Skilled Trades

Souch Campus -

No Nominations Received

Any Location -

No Nominations Received

EXECUTIVE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE – Applied Science and Technology

No Nominations Received

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

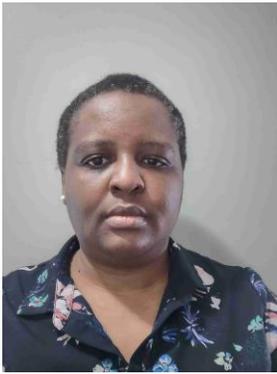
No Nominations Received

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE

No Nominations Received

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Olukemi Fasipe
Acclaimed**



I have been teaching in the Bachelor of Technology program for more than five years. I have worked with other instructors to provide guidance to students on their capstone project and have also presented at conferences. I volunteered to serve on the Finance committee for the 2021/2022 academic year and will like to continue to serve NASA as a member of the Finance committee. My hobbies include cooking and doing light exercises.

**Susan Hurley
Acclaimed**



I have volunteered with NASA for the past 11 years on the Bargaining Committee and Team and as an elected Executive Representative for the JR School of Business. I am also a past member of NASA's Finance Committee. I hold a Chartered Profession Accounting Designation which I believe will be an asset to the Finance Committee from both a budgeting and financial statement perspective. If elected I will continue to uphold NASA values of transparency, fairness and fiscal responsibility.

**Terry Sulyma
Acclaimed**

**Starr Zhang
Acclaimed**

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – Elect Three (3)

**Mark Schneider
Acclaimed**



Mark is seeking re-election representing faculty on Academic Council. As a previous representative on Academic Council Mark further volunteered to chair the Honorary Degree Committee as well as volunteering as a representative on the NAIT Policy Committee. Mark is a strong advocate for collaboration and ensuring the voice of all parties are collectively balanced and heard.

I am thankful to my colleagues to have given me the opportunity to represent them on Academic Council. While serving, when matters came forward that effected a specific program area, I consistently reached out to colleagues in that area to ensure they were being properly represented. I hope to earn the trust of my friends and colleagues once again as I seek re-election as a representative on Academic Council.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE – Elect One (1)

Mark Schneider



Committed to providing and improving the education of students, Mark joined NAIT in 2012 as an instructor with the Mathematics Department. He has delivered courses for many different program areas, across multiple schools, and further helped support a vast number of colleagues while he was seconded to work within the Academic Excellence portfolio. For the past two years Mark has reverted back to the classroom, teaching courses in Mathematics and Computing.

Through his various roles Mark has been able to gain insight into many different program areas. Mark holds a high regard for the need to collaborate and learn about the unique challenges and best practices faculty face across the wide range of disciplines delivered at NAIT.

I feel extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to work with so many people across so many different areas. I am passionate about promoting and respecting the uniqueness, and greatness, of faculty and programs and aim to bring this passion forward as a representative on the Board of Governors.

Teaching, learning, and collaboration are three components that stitch together the NAIT community. It is these same three components that Mark wants to bring with him as he seeks election to represent faculty on the Board of Governors.

Tanya Spencer



Dr. Tanya Spencer, Lead, Student Counselling and Chaplaincy

Thank you for considering my candidacy representing you on the Board of Governors, the place where we see NAIT evolve while balancing vision with action. For a little over 5 years now, I've had the privilege of helping all of you, my fellow NASA members, make referrals and support student mental health, with more than few debriefs along the way! What do I bring to this position? My board-related experience includes a current position on a provincial board with a 53-year history - Past President for the Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta where I started as a director in 2014. There, in addition to meeting with the Ministry of Education to encourage early literacy screening as a province-wide standard, we use public- and family-based awareness to promote equity, prevent LD, and support learners with challenges like dyslexia and dysgraphia. A true window into the interplay (and tensions!) of budgets, curriculum, and the broader vision for Alberta's students. Other related experience was roughly 10 years as a member of the Lakehead University Faculty Association in Thunder Bay. My greatest hope is that my eyes and voice on the BoG will offer peace of mind that NAIT's direction is loyal to student need and best educational practices - all at a time when learner expectations for excellence and support from us continues to expand. Happy to field any questions at tspencer@nait.ca.