

Melissa Manuel

Statement of Candidacy

Melissa is a proud undergraduate alumna of UVic, along with being a former student representative of Senate, full-time staff member, Vikes Recreation instructor, and undergraduate student society member (PsychOS). As an individual with deep roots to UVic, she would be proud to once again stand as a member of Senate to positively influence university governance.

Following Melissa's graduation from UVic in 2012, she moved to the Arabian Peninsula where she has continued working in higher education, alongside completing her MBA in 2016 and current enrollment in a doctoral program focusing on organizational behaviour. Melissa is currently a University Registrar for a new startup institution in Saudi Arabia, working passionately to re-envision university administration for the benefit of students, staff, and faculty stakeholders.

With over 16 years in higher education leadership, Melissa is also a board member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), co-chair of professional development for the AACRAO Women's Caucus, and country representative for the Middle East and North Africa regional group of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. As an avid researcher and contributor to best practice, Melissa presents and hosts various in-person seminars and webinars relating to leadership, particularly in higher education, women in the workplace, and AI and data analytics.

Melissa is a first-generation student and the only in her family to pursue graduate studies. Her commitment to academic governance is demonstrated through her history working with universities to develop robust institutional infrastructure built upon research and best practice, data-informed decision making, and innovative future readiness. With her dedication to UVic, enthusiastic attitude, extensive experience in higher education, and familiarity with UVic's governance structures, history, and organizational culture, she is confident she can make a positive contribution to UVic's Senate and community at large.