

Christian Van Buskirk - Biographical Sketch and Statement of Candidacy

Finding the best possible candidate as Dean of the Gustavson School of Business is a priority. This leader will make the needed changes to set us on a strong forward-thinking path. Here is how I see my background helping drive the success of this committee.

My servant-style leadership is evidenced in my service on various Gustavson committees including RPT, Appointments, PRC for both Business Minor and BCom, and the Culture Committee. In my most recent role as Academic Director, Master in Management, I see the importance of a dean who will support programs to drive innovation and capture new markets.

Externally, my work with the United Nation's PRME Global Compact has elevated Gustavson's profile in progressive pedagogical practices and has built strong relationships in our community of practice. I know how important relationships are to our school and how paramount it is to choose a dean who values relationship-fostering and a commitment to investing in Gustavson's current and future partners.

As Associate Teaching Professor, I feel it is critically important to have a voice at the table on choosing a leader who values teaching as one of our fundamental strengths, a person who can envision how teaching will help us compete in this increasingly AI-generated world. From teaching in our various programs (BCom, MBA, MBA-AR, Business Minor and Executive Programs), it is clear how the needs of our students are changing and, in turn, resourcing and support for faculty has never been more important. As a person who studies and teaches marketing, it is always top of mind how we must use our strengths as a smaller, boutique school and position ourselves strongly in uncertain times. I will help search for a dean to help us become laser-focused on our strengths and feel pride in what we do best.