Melissa Carvalho  
Biographical Sketch and Statement of Candidacy

As proud member of the University of Victoria (UVic) convocation (Bachelor of Arts, 2007), I am excited for the opportunity to positively impact the current and future students of UVic so they too can benefit from the exceptional experience provided by the university. Arriving from the Okanagan to attend what felt like a big city, UVic provided a safe, inclusive and intellectually rigorous experience that propelled me to a successful career. Having left for Alberta after graduation to work for the Government of Alberta, I was able to apply the skills I gained, including critical thinking, research, effective communication, analysis, and contribute to the public policy process. With a recent move to the private sector, providing public relations support, I have returned to Victoria and am eager to reengage in the vibrancy of the UVic community. Should I be successful in my bid, I would bolster all that the current Senate has achieved while considering opportunities for expansion. I hope to pursue activities that support academic investment in the students who trust UVic with their time and resources.

Creating an environment for students to thrive academically and carry those skills into fulfilling careers requires acknowledging the nimbleness and agility required to do so during these uncertain times. While skills are critical to obtaining gainful employment, so too is the constant pursuit of knowledge. Where possible, I would explore further opportunity to marry work-integrated learning and industry collaboration with the academic experience. The exposure and encouragement I received while at the University is something I hope to continue to bring forward to the current academic experience.

I intend to combine my university experience, my work experience, but also my honest perspective to the Senate and take steps to support the success of UVic grads of the future.