

# 2023 Elections

## Faculty of Business Candidates

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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



# Elections Timeline

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The 2022 Faculty Representative elections of the Association shall consist of the following periods:

- Campaigning Period: March 3 to March 9
- Polling Period: March 9 and March 10
- Newly elected officials notified: March 11

# Voting Platform

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**The link to the voting platform is: <https://elections.augsa.com>.**

With 2023 elections taking place on March 9th and 10th, there will be an election process for each of the following faculties:

- Faculty of Business
- Faculty of Health Disciplines
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Science and Technology representative positions have been acclaimed.

# Faculty of Business

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**Faculty of Business**

**Dennis Delgado**

Graduate Student  
DBA Program

Dennis Delgado is a DBA student 2019 cohort now in the dissertation phase of the program. For more than twenty years, Dennis has been involved in implementing and maintaining business systems that connect organizational functions and processes effectively. In the last ten years, his area of focus has been in occupational health and safety management. Hence, his research interest in exploring what motivates small businesses attain good OHS performance, how they attain good performance, and how they can improve OHS management strategies to attain good OHS performance sustainably. This also aligns well with his core mission in life: to help others in need.

He holds an MBA degree from the University of the Philippines and BSc degree in electrical engineering from Mapúa University. Also, he possesses a diploma in quality systems and has completed coursework in immigration law, administrative justice, OHS legislation, disability case management, accounting and finance, and nursing.

Currently, he is working as manager for operations in WorkSafeBC's Prevention group and is also a business faculty of Douglas College teaching occupational health and safety and other management courses. He has worked in various industries, such as electrical transmission and distribution, telephony, high-technology manufacturing, rubber and plastics.

## Faculty of Business

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### **FB Representative**

**Joseph LaCoste**  
Graduate Student  
MBA Program

Joseph LaCoste enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program at Athabasca University in August 2022. Joseph is enjoying his studies in the MBA program and is excited to embark on the elective courses including getting to know more of his business student peers. Joseph is currently the Human Resources Manager, Employee Experience and Engagement with the City of Maple Ridge and is responsible for the design and implementation of the Human Resources strategy focused on employee feedback mechanisms; employee innovation; equity, diversity and inclusion; and employee appreciation. Joseph volunteered as the chairperson and head instructor of a non-profit karate club in Edmonton between January 2015 and December 2020 giving him a wealth of volunteer committee experience.

Joseph is passionate about people and fostering meaningful connections. Joseph is excited by the opportunity of representing his graduate student peers as a Council Member of the AUGSA and is committed to advocate for enhancing the student experience.

## Faculty of Business

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**FB Representative**

**Ali Kiani**

Graduate Student  
DBA Program

My name is Ali Kiani. I am currently doing my DBA at the Athabasca University. As a highly experienced professional with a strong background in leadership and problem-solving, I am excited to bring my skills and expertise to the AUGSA Council. In 2016, I pursued a master's degree in public administration at the University of Saskatchewan. Through this program, I developed a deep understanding of administration, government, economics, and public policy and gained experience in data analysis, statistics, and cost-benefit analysis. I also honed my negotiation and ethical leadership skills and applied these skills as a voting member of the university council.

As Vice President of Student Affairs with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) for two years, I demonstrated strong leadership and problem-solving skills in advocating for graduate students. I trained in conflict resolution, mental health first aid, and indigenous cultural studies to offer the best advice to students facing educational, housing, or personal conflicts. I went above and beyond by organizing free workshops on important topics for the graduate student, such as immigration, human rights, EDI, racism, and careers.

# Faculty of Business

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**FB Representative**

**Ian Chitwood**

Graduate Student  
DBA Program

My name is Ian Chitwood. I am entering the final year of the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program at Athabasca University. I am currently researching how the use of technology impacts the experience of work in manufacturing companies. I hold a B.Comm in Finance, a MAIS degree from AU, and an MBA. I have over 15 years of management experience in industrial operations and agriculture, as well as significant board experience, serving as Vice-Chair of the board of the Alberta Canola Producer's Commission, Chair of Agsafe Alberta, and President of the Verb Theatre board in Calgary.

I have represented the Faculty of Businesses on the AUGSA council for the past two years, and would love the opportunity to serve for a final year. I have a thorough understanding of the organization, and how it meets the needs of graduate students. I always seek to understand the issues facing graduate students in the faculty, and want to continue to advocate on their behalf, develop pragmatic solutions, and meet their needs. It's been a privilege to represent the faculty and would love to continue addressing the needs and challenges facing graduate business students.



# Faculty of Business

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**FB Representative**

**Jason Kauenhofen**  
Graduate Student  
DBA Program

Jason is a leader, a father, and an academic.

For the past 20 years, Jason has been a regular member of the Canadian Armed Forces. As an Army senior officer, he has two fundamental leadership responsibilities. The first is to advocate for his personnel to support their issues, problems, and circumstances. The second is to advise the institution on how to best adapt the task, mission, or mandate to the realities of their human resources. Jason has faithfully conducted these responsibilities on several continents under demanding conditions.

Jason is the father to two medically fragile children below the first percentile. He operates a non-profit business that employs three support staff to support them as they grow. The business has three main prerogatives: Make it fun, meaningful, and count. He believes that life is precious, and the quality of our activities gives it meaning. When things have meaning, they count on the spectrum of life. When we count enough meaningful fun things, life is rich, and the children can grow as human beings – regardless of the barriers.

As a second-year doctoral student in the Faculty of Business, Jason is researching cultural friction to improve personnel integration and organizational productivity.

## Faculty of Business

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**FB Representative**

**Brittany Hollett**

Graduate Student  
MBA Program

Brittany is a Registered Nurse with a background in pediatric and adult critical care, and has recently transitioned to a more formal management role in healthcare. She holds a Master of Nursing degree through Athabasca University and is currently pursuing a second master's degree, a Master of Business Administration, also through AU. Through her MBA studies, she hopes to gain the necessary skillset to be an effective manager in a healthcare environment. She was the winner of the 3 Minute Thesis competition in 2020, and the People's Choice award winner from the Graduate Student Research Conference in October 2020 as well. Her positive experiences with AUGSA events have led her to want to play a more active role in planning these events and making them a great experience for her fellow students. Through Brittany's professional role as an RN, she is well-versed in respectfully and professionally advocating for changes that will have a meaningful impact for the individuals involved. She has a passion for education and would love the opportunity to represent AU graduate students in a more formal capacity.



## Faculty of Business

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### **FB Representative**

**Margaret Clappison,**  
**BIS, MBA, CPA**  
Graduate Student  
DBA Program

Margaret Clappison is a doctoral student in the Faculty of Business with a focus on ethics. Margaret is a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) and completed her Master of Business Administration from Athabasca University. She resides in Waterloo, Ontario.

Margaret has been involved with AUGSA Council for over 10 years and represented AUGSA as the Vice-President Operations & Finance for two years.