

UBCFA Executive Election 2025

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Nominee for Member-at-Large

Ben Britton

Professor
Materials Engineering
Applied Science
UBC Vancouver

As a professor deeply committed to fostering collaboration and advancing faculty interests, I am eager to bring my expertise, energy, and dedication to the Faculty Association Executive Committee. My research focuses on advanced materials characterization using electron microscopy, while my teaching spans advanced manufacturing and clean energy—fields that align closely with UBC's mission of innovation in basic science and applied engineering. Beyond my research and teaching, I am passionate about furthering UBC's educational mission by providing context-focused training that enhances how we participate in academia, with a particular emphasis on engineering and science education and research.

Since joining UBC in 2021, following nine years at Imperial College London and postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford, I have gained extensive experience in committee work at local, national, and international levels. My active involvement with the University and College Union (UCU) in the UK shaped my understanding of faculty advocacy through collective action and reinforced my belief in the importance of standing together to address shared challenges.

At UBC, I currently serve as a Representative of the Joint Faculties on the Vancouver Senate, where I chair the Senate Nominating Committee and vice-chair the Appeals on Academic Standing Committee. In addition, as Associate Head of Department (Graduates) and Graduate Advisor, I support graduate education while fostering meaningful relationships among colleagues and students. These roles have strengthened my ability to listen to diverse perspectives, build consensus, and advocate for equitable policies that benefit our academic community.

If elected as a member-at-large, I will work collaboratively with colleagues to address critical issues that intersect with our union's mission. Faculty across British Columbia face significant challenges related to budget constraints, academic freedom, equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI), and the evolving role of universities in society. At this pivotal time, it is essential that we have a strong Faculty Association advocating for our shared interests while fostering an inclusive academic environment where all voices are heard.

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Ben Britton (cont'd)

Representation and shared governance are core values for me. I am committed to drawing on my expertise, lived experiences, and leadership roles within UBC to serve the Faculty Association effectively. Together, we can address these challenges head-on while continuing to build a vibrant academic community that reflects UBC's values of inclusive excellence, integrity, and collaboration.

I hope to earn your support so that we can collectively strengthen our Faculty Association and advance our shared vision for UBC's future.

Ben Britton

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CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Nominee for Member-at-Large

Jacquelyn Cragg

Assistant Professor

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

UBC Vancouver

Dr. Jacquelyn Cragg is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a Principal Investigator at the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD). She holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair and is a Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar. In 2019, Dr. Cragg was honored as the sole North American recipient of the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Rising Talent. She has also received the Canadian Society for Epidemiology & Biostatistics Early Career Award and the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences Early Career Award.

Jacquelyn Cragg

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Nominee for Member-at-Large

Karen Pinder

Professor of Teaching
Cellular and Physiological Sciences
Faculty of Medicine
UBC Vancouver

I am writing to request your vote for the position of a member-at-large on the 2025 UBC Faculty Executive. I am grateful to have been serving on this committee for the past two years and I have learned a lot about the functioning of UBC.

If re-elected to the role of member-at-large I commit to continuing to represent the needs of all members of the UBC Faculty Association. I joined the University in the Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine in 2004, rising through the ranks to attain full Professor of Teaching in 2021. I have been the recipient of prestigious teaching awards, including a 2015 Killam Teaching Prize and a 2021 Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Although this will be only my second time elected to the Faculty Association Executive, I come armed with a plethora of committee experience (both as a voting member and chair of many provincial committees in the medical program), both to the University and my Department in my working life. This means I have a thorough knowledge of committee service, both locally and for the provincially distributed undergraduate medical program.

With my meticulous eye for details and excellence, my main goals and priorities if elected are to advocate for all faculty members, with an emphasis on the educational leadership (EL) faculty. In particular, at a recent meeting between the Faculty Association and the educational leadership faculty a very clear message was the lack of balance between teaching loads and the time required to meet the additional requirements for tenure and/or promotion in the EL ranks. For example, the teaching hours of many members completely obviate the time required for other necessities for tenure and/or promotion (a prime example is educational research). As someone who has reached full Professor of Teaching, I am keenly aware of these difficulties, among others, and I am committed to ensuring that all members can fairly and confidently progress through the educational leadership ranks.

Finally, this past year has been informative for many faculty members about the lack of freedom of expression at UBC. Although UBC purports to uphold this to its highest standards, and it is even enshrined into the Collectives Agreement, in truth UBC does not

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Karen Pinder (cont'd)

permit freedom of expression. Faculty members are being disciplined and even terminated for speaking their truths. I will stand on the side of every faculty member to maintain freedom of expression.

If you have any questions, I invite you to contact me via email at karen.pinder@ubc.ca. Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Pinder

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Nominee for Member-at-Large

Mohamed Gebril

Assistant Professor
Oral Health Sciences
Faculty of Dentistry
UBC Vancouver

I am interested in serving as one of the Members-at-Large on our Faculty Association. I joined the UBC Faculty of Dentistry as an Assistant Professor in 2022. Over the last ten years, I have had the great opportunity to teach dentistry at three different Canadian Universities: the University of British Columbia, Dalhousie University, and the University of Western Ontario. During this time, I have enhanced not only my teaching and research abilities but also my administrative and communication skills.

In terms of my administrative experience, I currently serve on multiple committees within the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of British Columbia. During my time at Dalhousie Dentistry, I was the Acting Division Head of Prosthodontics and the Chair of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access (EDIA) Committee. I also served as a member of various committees at both the faculty and university levels. As Chair of the EDIA Committee, I worked closely with committee members and the Faculty of Dentistry to develop workshops for students, staff, and faculty, addressing key aspects of this important matter.

Given my diverse background, experience, and qualifications in teaching, scholarly work, and service, I believe I would be a valuable asset to the Faculty Association. I am dedicated to working hard to improve conditions for faculty members at our university.

Mohamed Gebril

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CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Nominee for Member-at-Large

Susan Paterson

Librarian

Library

Koerner Library

UBC Vancouver

I started working at UBC Library in January 2007 as a librarian in Koerner Library. I am standing for election as a Member at Large with the hope of helping, assisting and advocating for my fellow FA members. I have been on the Member Services Grievance Committee (MSGC) since 2017 and have learned a great deal from my fellow MSGC members. Sitting on this committee has provided me with both an appreciation and understanding of the important work of the UBCFA. I would like to further my contribution to the FA and advocate for the issues that are important to the UBC community such as workload and work life balance; justice, equity, diversity and inclusion; shrinking budgets and how to deal with deficits and the impact on resource allocation; child and elder care; and the importance of accessibility and ensuring all UBCFA members have their accessibility needs met.

I have experience working with diverse groups of people and have chaired numerous international and national committees including the American Library Association (ALA) International Documents Task Force (IDTF), the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Web Archiving Section and the Canadian Government Information Digital Preservation Network (CGI-DPN).

As the government information librarian, I advocate to ensure long term access and preservation of government information. In these current global times, working with various stakeholders and collaborating to ensure the preservation and access to all government information is critical. I have worked with various levels of government, to advocate for improved access to information, particularly the impact of Crown Copyright on government materials. I provided testimony to parliament at the Standing Committee of Industry, Science and Technology meeting to reform the Copyright Act in 2018 and am in conversations with the BC Government about provincial crown copyright interpretations.

As a collection coordinator for Koerner Library, I work closely with my colleagues to ensure that our collections budget is on track. This work is collaborative in nature, as I need to ensure that all areas in the humanities and social sciences are being represented as equally as possible. As we all know, money is finite so I strive to ensure that the work is transparent.

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Susan Paterson (cont'd)

Listening to the opinions and views of my colleagues as well as working together in a collegial and collaborative manner are key for success.

Determination, motivation and perseverance are qualities I try to emulate in both my work and my life and I think these are characteristics that enabled me to qualify and compete in the Boston Athletics Association Marathon in 2023.

I am committed and steadfast in my resolve to do good for others and I like to give back to my community and have volunteered at the Union Gospel Mission since 2022.

Thank you for your time and for considering me for a member at large position.

Susan Paterson