

**Profiles of Candidates for
Graduate Studies Representative to
Committees on:
Academic Policies
*Academic Programs and Planning***

**Term: 2025–2027
Election: April 14 – 18, 2025**

Candidate Fact Sheet – Shah Khan

Name and Title: Shah Kahn, Assistant Professor of Coastal Zone Management

School: NAMS

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Policies

Number of Years at Stockton: 3.5

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

Based on my 25+ years of experience in graduate education, I will contribute to the advancement of the graduate curriculum, policies, and procedures at Stockton University. With the advantages of a unique geographical setting in South Jersey and exceptional interdisciplinary learning opportunities, Stockton University has enormous potential to establish a complimentary knowledge network with other regional universities and colleges, and to create research and learning opportunities across various disciplines. While strengthening and sustaining undergraduate education has become a challenging yet essential priority for us, setting the future direction and structuring graduate education is equally necessary for establishing Stockton as a leading University with all its unique strengths. Given the opportunity, I look forward to contributing to the committee on achieving these objectives.

Candidate Fact Sheet – Elaine Perignat

Name and Title: Elaine Perignat, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Management

School: BUSN

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Policies

Number of Years at Stockton: 1

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

I currently teach and advise graduate and doctoral students at Stockton. While my time at Stockton has been short, I've developed curricula across several graduate programs and institutions in the last 10 years. I believe I can offer valuable insights and solutions to bolster Stockton's programs to increase enrollment.

Candidate Fact Sheet – Kate Worley

Name and Title: Kate Worley, Assistant Professor of Counseling

School: SOBL

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Policies

Number of Years at Stockton: 0.5

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

I would like to become a graduate representative to represent the perspective of graduate programs on the Academic Policies Committee. Additionally, I believe that this will be a great opportunity to serve the university and learn more about academic policies as a new faculty member.

Candidate Fact Sheet – Ian Zapcic

Name and Title: Ian Zapcic, Assistant Professor of Social Work

School: SOBL

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Policies

Number of Years at Stockton: 1

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

In my classes, I foster collaboration regarding policies and expectations of my graduate students. Likewise, I offer them the opportunity to provide feedback and speak freely about academic policies within our classes and Stockton as a whole. I see this committee opportunity as a chance to incorporate what I have learned, and continue to learn, from my students into a broader discussion about how we can keep policies fair, current, and rigorous while balancing students' interests and needs.

Candidate Fact Sheet – William Buchala

Name and Title: William Buchala, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and Assistant Director of Clinical Education

School: HLTH

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Programs and Planning

Number of Years at Stockton: 1

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

I seek to serve as Graduate Representative to the Academic Programs and Planning Committee to contribute to long-term academic planning and advocate for forward thinking graduate program development. As a recent addition to the Stockton faculty, I can provide a fresh perspective while remaining committed to Stockton's academic mission. My experience in interprofessional private healthcare practice has afforded me valuable insight into interdepartmental collaboration, compromise, and teamwork. I would be honored to have the opportunity to work with colleagues across disciplines to strengthen Stockton's graduate offerings and to ensure program development that maintains the University's high standards of quality and integrity.

Candidate Fact Sheet – Amit Mukherjee

Name and Title: Amit Mukherjee, Professor of Business Studies, Marketing

School: BUSN

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Programs and Planning

Number of Years at Stockton: 19

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

I have experience serving on this committee and in developing new academic programs. I would bring to this position my expertise and interest in new program development and planning by offering my advice and guidance. I also hope to learn by reading about diverse new program initiatives and apply to a new program initiative that I am a part of.

Candidate Fact Sheet – LariderRuffin

Name and Title: Larider Ruffin, Associate Professor of Nursing

School: HLTH

Position sought: Graduate Representative, Committee on Academic Programs and Planning

Number of Years at Stockton: 7

Why do you want to be a Graduate Representative? What would you bring to this position?

I am seeking election as the Graduate Faculty Representative on the Academic Program and Planning Committee to contribute meaningfully to the academic growth and strategic development of Stockton University. I have served as chair of the MS in Nursing and not chair of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. I will bring extensive experience in graduate education, curriculum development, and program planning. I am passionate about ensuring that our graduate programs reflect academic excellence, innovation, and responsiveness to workforce needs. Serving on this committee will allow me to advocate for graduate faculty perspectives, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and support initiatives that enhance student success and program sustainability. I am committed to representing my colleagues with integrity and working collaboratively to shape a strong academic future for Stockton. I welcome the opportunity to serve and support the continued advancement of graduate education across the university.