

Musfiq Rahman, Ph.D.

Candidate for Board of Governors - Faculty Representative

Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Computing Science | Thompson Rivers University

Credentials: Ph.D., Computer Science, Dalhousie University (2013); M.Sc., Computer Science, Asian Institute of Technology (2005); B.Sc., Computer Science, American International University-Bangladesh (2000).

TRU roles: At TRU since 2013; Department Chair (2021-present); Program Coordinator (2019-2021); Acting Chair (2016); Vice-President, Shop Stewards, TRUFA (2019-2024); Open Learning Faculty Member (2017-present); Senate Promotion and Tenure Committee (2018-2021); Senate Award Committee (2022-2023).

I came to TRU in 2013, and it has been my academic home ever since. I have taught on campus and through Open Learning, served as Program Coordinator and Acting Chair, and have chaired Computing Science since 2021. I am running for the Board because its decisions on budgets, buildings and labour reach every classroom and office on campus. I would like to help the Board see what those decisions mean for the people doing the teaching and research.

As Chair, much of my week goes to the practical side of running a department: hiring, workload, timetables, curriculum, and asking the Dean for money. Over two budget cycles I put together costed requests that brought more than \$70,000 in new technology into our labs. The job has taught me that there is never enough to go around. The hard part is deciding what comes first and explaining why. Our department has both teaching-focused and research faculty, and I build workloads that work for both. I also developed our Diploma in Cybersecurity and presented it to Senate's Educational Programs Committee for approval. That work, and my years on two Senate committees, showed me where Senate's role ends and the Board's begins.

From 2019 to 2024 I was TRUFA's Vice-President, Shop Stewards. I sat with colleagues through grievances, arbitrations and workplace investigations, and took part in joint labour-management meetings. Those cases taught me that people can accept a difficult decision when the process is fair and someone explains it to them honestly. They rarely accept one that was made quietly.

I am still an active researcher. I work in cybersecurity, wireless and IoT security, RFID/NFC and applied machine learning, and I have more than 25 peer-reviewed publications, two U.S. provisional patent applications, and funding from NSERC, Mitacs and other sources. I also co-founded Wi4Tech Inc. (2013-2017) to commercialize our wireless and NFC research.

I understand that the next three years will not be easy for TRU. Changes in international enrolment have put real pressure on the budget, and the Board will face hard choices about spending, space and staffing while keeping its promises to students and to Open Learning. TRU sits on Secwépemc land, and when the Board decides how that land is used and built on, I will ask whether Secwépemc communities have been heard. I know a Governor's duty is to TRU as a whole, and I will declare any conflict and step out when I should. But when a decision changes how faculty teach, research or work, I will make sure the Board hears what that looks like from our side.

What you can expect from me:

- **I will do the reading.** Board papers are long. I will come to every meeting having read them, with questions ready.
- **I will ask about people, not just cost.** For every major decision, I will ask what it means for students, teaching and research.
- **I will stay reachable.** Much Board business is confidential, but my door stays open. I will listen to faculty concerns and raise them where I can.

Outside the classroom: I coordinated the provincially funded BC Short-term Coding Program, which taught coding to more than 100 community members and non-IT professionals. I have helped with science fairs and youth technology outreach, I am part of the leadership of the Bangladeshi Community Association of Kamloops, and for years I have been involved in TRU's International Mother Language Day events, which also honour the preservation of Indigenous languages.