

Zeinab Esmaeili, Ph.D.

Candidate for Faculty of Arts Representative to the TRU Senate | 2027–2029

I have been a faculty member at Thompson Rivers University since 2022, teaching in the Department of Journalism, Communication and New Media. As a multilingual educator and scholar, I bring academic and professional experience spanning Austria, Switzerland, countries across Asia, the United States, and Canada. My interest in Senate service reflects a commitment to academic quality, responsible governance, and meaningful faculty participation.

My academic experience at the University of Vienna in Austria, together with consulting and leadership work across industries, has shaped my understanding of management, strategic communication, and organizational decision-making. Serving as an educator, researcher, consultant, administrator, and student advisor has taught me to examine issues from different perspectives and connect academic knowledge with practical judgment.

Academic governance has been central to my service at TRU and across British Columbia. Since 2023, I have held leadership responsibilities in academic governance through TRUFA and the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC. My service also includes research and scholarship, equivalent workload, human rights, bargaining coordination, and salary and working conditions. These responsibilities have deepened my understanding of faculty concerns and the importance of consultation, transparency, and accountability.

Within TRU, I have contributed to departmental leadership, academic and strategic planning, equity and inclusion, decolonization and Indigenization, and the Senate International Affairs Committee. My previous work as an International Student Advisor–Immigration Specialist provided direct insight into students’ experiences and the institutional support they need to succeed.

My scholarly contributions include published books and numerous national and international papers, including papers nominated for best-paper awards. Alongside my previous Associate Professor appointment, this work reflects a sustained commitment to teaching, research, and the exchange of knowledge.

My approach to Senate service would be grounded in careful preparation, informed deliberation, and accountable representation. I would seek colleagues’ perspectives across the Faculty of Arts, bring their concerns into discussion, and communicate clearly about matters before Senate. In considering academic proposals, I would examine their implications for program quality, faculty responsibilities, equitable access, and student success.

I would be honoured to serve as the Faculty of Arts representative on Senate, listening thoughtfully to colleagues and representing their perspectives with care and integrity. I look forward to working collaboratively to strengthen our academic community, support excellence in teaching and scholarship, and help students thrive.

Zeinab Esmaeili, Ph.D. (she/her)

**Faculty Member | Journalism, Communication and New Media
Thompson Rivers University**