Hello. My name is Simon Heslup, and I am seeking election to Education Council for the FSA, Faculty, School of Transportation/Specialty Faculty seat.

I am a regular full-time Specialized Faculty member in BCIT's Teaching and Learning Unit (TLU), where I work as an Instructional Development Consultant (IDC). I am the Program Head for the Associate Certificate in Polytechnic Teaching, the TLU liaison to the School of Health Sciences, and a member of the SoHS School Quality Committee. I believe my current roles at BCIT and my education and experience have prepared me to be an effective member of Education Council.

In my role as an IDC, I regularly work with colleagues from across BCIT (including the TLU, the Library, and the School of Transportation) on projects related to the development and review of programs, courses, curriculum, learning outcomes, and assessments. Through this work, as well as my support of faculty development, including the workshops I deliver, the courses I teach in the Associate Certificate in Polytechnic Teaching, and my program head duties, I regularly hear about the opportunities and challenges the institution faces in delivering high-quality education in a rapidly changing environment. My participation in Education Council will deepen my understanding of BCIT's policies, decision-making, and approval processes, and the departments across the institute that I support as an IDC will benefit.

My academic background includes a Master of Education specializing in Educational Technology. My professional interests include the emerging impacts of generative AI on teaching and learning, as well as Universal Design for Learning. As BCIT continues to adapt to new technologies and evolving educational needs, I believe I will bring a valuable perspective to Education Council discussions.

Before joining BCIT three years ago, I worked at three post-secondary institutions for a total of 17 years, during which I taught, supported faculty development, and served on committees, including the Academic Appeals Committee at The University of Calgary in Qatar. These experiences have allowed me to see how different institutions approach academic governance and have reinforced the importance of thoughtful, evidence-informed decision-making.

I believe I am prepared to represent both the School of Transportation and Specialized Faculty effectively on Education Council. While our work takes place in different contexts, we share a commitment to student success, educational quality, and ensuring that institutional policies and processes support effective teaching and learning. My experience working across multiple schools and departments at BCIT has given me insight into how decisions made at the institutional level affect our programs, instructors, and students in diverse settings.

Thank you for considering me for the FSA, Faculty, School of Transportation/Specialty Faculty seat. I would be honoured to represent this diverse group on Education Council.

Simon Heslup