
Candidates for Treasurer

Connie Phelps

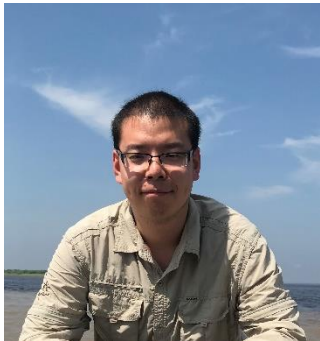


Hi everyone, I am Connie Phelps and I have been working in IR for more than 20 years. For the first 12 years I was with Academica Group working my way up to VP Research and Operations. In 2011, I left to start the IR office at Conestoga College. It was very exciting to start from the ground floor, discovering what information and data was needed around the college to make better decisions and then serving it up in easy-to-access and easy-to-use ways. Often it has been the case of “people don’t know what they don’t know”... and it has been my job to listen, to observe, to ask questions and then develop a solution they didn’t know they needed but can now no

longer live without – the power of data is magical. I am now the Associate Vice President of Institutional Planning Analysis & Quality at Conestoga. For the last two years I have acted as the CIRPA Treasurer and I would be happy to serve for an additional term.

Candidates for Secretary

Jianyuan (Andy) Hu



I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board Member, as Secretary position with the Canadian Institution for Research and Planning Association (CIRPA). My participation in CIRPA’s annual general meeting in Winnipeg last year allowed me to pleasantly engage with many members, fostering a good understanding of the organization’s culture and objectives. I subsequently volunteered as subcommittee member with Professional Development and Communication Subcommittees at CIRPA.

My experience with IR sector started as a Senior Research & Planning Analyst at Queen’s University 2 years ago. I function as student data lead, improve processes for different data projects, and implement datastores and data platform solutions for the team. This directly helps me with the context and knowledge beneficial for the association. Prior to joining IR sector, I worked through various financial analyst roles at different higher educational institutions, leading all the way to eventually become a CPA. This unique history equips me with professionalism, planning/organizational skills, and financial/business acumen, all of which I sincerely hope the CIRPA board can benefit from.

I am quite interested in bringing my business acumen, planning skills, and passion for institutional research sector to the Board. I look forward to the opportunity to join CIRPA Board and bring my experiences to better suite the needs of the Board and CIRPA.

Martha Meisner



Martha Meisner is a Senior Institutional Analyst at Dalhousie University and brings over twelve years of institutional research experience in the Office of Planning and Analytics. Before this, she worked for eight years in the Office of the Registrar specializing in student information data through reporting and analysis. She is being nominated for the Secretary position on the CIRPA board. Her strong commitment to using data and information to support evidence-based decision-making has consistently demonstrated her dedication to the field. Martha is presently a member of the CIRPA Membership Sub-Committee.

Holding a master's degree in information management from Dalhousie University complements her role in improving data accessibility, data quality, and information sharing. Martha uses institutional data to support the university's strategic priorities. This includes initiatives around rankings and the analysis and dissemination of international and domestic rankings. With a background in student data analytics and reporting, she contributes to informed decision-making with insights and collaborates with colleagues to support strategic planning.

As Secretary, Martha will use her experience to promote collaboration within the institutional research community and actively support the Association's initiatives. With a commitment to excellence, she will manage records, support the President with correspondence, and coordinate communication activities.

Candidates for Member-at-Large

Brent Harris



Brent is currently the Associate Director of Okanagan Planning and Institutional Research at the University of British Columbia, where he has spent the last 6 years leading a team of analysts in the collection, management, analysis, and reporting of institutional data. He has presented at 2 previous CIRPA conferences, and dipped his toes in to the conference planning world last year as a Hybrid Chair in support of the team in Winnipeg. He was also part of the initial mentee cohort for the CIRPA Mentorship Program in 2022. Contributing to the overall success of institutional research in Canada is important to Brent, as he is also currently the interim Co-Chair of the British Columbia Student Outcomes Research Forum, which surveys former students from 25 public post-secondary institutions about their experiences. If elected, Brent will endeavor to share his excitement about institutional research and planning with all members, and help ensure that the organization continues to provide valuable opportunities.

Antonia (Nonie) Sly Nichols



My name is Antonia Sly Nichols - many of you know me as Nonie - and I am the Manager of Institutional Research at Nova Scotia Community College. I hold undergraduate and graduate degrees in social sciences and a certificate in Adult and Community Education. I have 20 years of experience working in post-secondary and 11 years in a research environment. I joined NSCC in 2005 and worked for 10 years in Student Services before moving to IR. I have been fortunate to have found a career that combines my love of data and research with my passion for improving services to students and NSCC's connections to the communities of Nova Scotia.

I have been a Member-at-Large and chair of the Membership Sub-committee since October 2022. I have greatly enjoyed meeting members from across the country and collaborating with colleagues to explore ways to encourage more folks working with data to join CIRPA and contribute their knowledge and expertise to our community. I have also been a member of the Program Committee, a session reviewer, a webinar presenter, and I represented CIRPA at AIR as the winner of the Best Presentation Award in 2016.

I would appreciate the opportunity to continue my involvement with CIRPA and the Board as a Member-at-Large.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee

Sonia Beattie



Sonia Beattie is the Vice-Provost, Planning & Analytics at Dalhousie University. With a strong passion for education, she completed degrees at both Dalhousie University and Memorial University before starting her career in postsecondary education. Sonia serves on the leading edge of Dalhousie's work to become an integrated planning and insights driven institution. Sonia is a collaborative and creative senior leader with extensive experience leading institutional initiatives to support integrated planning (strategic, academic and enrolment planning), space utilization and planning, and human and financial resource management.

Sonia has served on a number of boards and professional associations. As an active member of the Canadian Institutional Research & Planning Association (CIRPA), she has served as the 2015 Conference Co-Chair for the national conference with oversight for the conference program. She also served on the Board of Directors, in the capacity of Member at Large and then as Vice-President.

Sonia enjoys volunteering and supporting her community. She is currently serving as Co-Chair of Dalhousie's United Way Campaign. She has also spent countless hours volunteering with Acadia Minor Hockey, the Community Health Board, Horton High Child Care Centre, Apple Blossom Festival, Berwick Gala Days Committee and the Kings County Special Olympics.

Sonia has two boys who are actively engaged in competitive sport so she enjoys watching them live in action, while travelling and enjoying time with her family and friends.

Yuqin Gong



My name is Yuqin Gong, and I am the Manager of Institutional Research at the University of Prince Edward Island where I have been working in the IR function for close to two decades. I joined CIRPA in 2007 and have been a member of CIRPA since then. Over the years, I have enjoyed the networking and learning opportunities provided by CIRPA. In addition to presenting at a couple CIRPA conferences, I was involved in the planning and organizing of multiple CIRPA conferences (2011 Fredericton, 2014 Hamilton, and 2015 Halifax), either as a co-chair or as a member of the organizing committee. I served as a member-at-large on the Board of Directors for two terms. I hope

to have the opportunity to work with the Nominating Committee to continue to serve CIRPA and to advance the IR profession.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I earned my Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies and Master of Science in Applied Statistics. I love mystery movies/novels and card games in my spare time.