Hello! My name is Nahid, I am running to be your next Director of Students Affairs. I am a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. I have been the director of Student Affairs from 2021 to 2022. This position provided me with the power to advocate for students, a thing that I am highly professional in it. Over this past year, I put sweat and blood into building strong relationships with other bodies at University and I was successful in building these connections. Now after a year of trying, I can use these connections easily to advocate students more than before.

**My Experience**

As a Director of Student Affairs, I have worked closely with the International Center of Students, Student Health, and Wellness Center, Students Awards and Financial Aid, Student Life Office, EQHR, President’s Office on graduate students' concerns. I have been committed to my previous plans and considered all the opportunities for making graduate students' lives better. Equality and human rights have been the focus of my role and I have always reflected on students’ points of view to university. I found people at UVic who are interested in helping students, particularly international students with their specific problems.

For 17 years I have worked in higher education. I have also started teaching at UVic this year. I know the education system properly and I am familiar with the hierarchical order of this system.

I have also volunteered with three non-profit organizations working with behaviorally challenged children and at-risk women as an educational expert. I have also worked with UVic’s EQHR as a volunteer in 5 days of action and UVic walk to end gender-based violence on Dec 6.

**My Goals as Director of Students Affairs**

My first year as a Director of Student Affairs provided me with exceptional experiences that I would like to employ the experience for my society’s members again. I have worked hard to build bridges between GSS and other bodies at UVic, to identify the potential and reflect students’ needs and interests. I have tried to enhance the graduate student experience at UVic, and I am going to work on the goals below even more this year:

**Reaching out to graduate students and asking for their opinions:** I will arrange various hybrid meetings to connect with the graduate students and hear their voices. I believe the best people who can let us know about students’ needs and interests are the students themselves!

**Widely informing graduate students about GSS’s support:** GSS has the potential to provide a variety of financial and mental health support for graduate students. I believe, informing graduate students about these supports would be more successful if we do it during various events organized by the GSS.

**Promoting inclusion:** As the director of Student Affairs, I have worked with EQHR, UVic pride, GEM, and Anti-Violence Project closely and I have tried to connect the students to the unions and clubs, where they can feel they are welcomed. I would like all graduate students with diverse cultures, beliefs, and nationalities to feel a sense of belonging at UVic.