

My name is Patrick von Hauff, I am an assistant lecturer with the Department of Art & Design, and a staff designer with the Learning Design Studio in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. During the past 14 years, I have collaborated with faculty on educational innovation and research projects, as well as instructed and mentored learners in industrial design, visual communication design, and the health professions in studio-based learning environments. I am a new AASUA member but have experience as an active union member in the Non-academic Staff Association (NASA) over the past three years. In my role as a support staff member, I currently sit on the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE).

My main reason for applying for the position of councillor is that there are currently five empty seats for ATS members—it is crucial for ATS members, but also for our union that there are no empty seats on council among any of our constituencies. I believe that our union is a crucial means by which we as employees may practice and cultivate workplace democracy—something which as precious as it was hard won. I am eager to meet with other ATS members, create opportunities for dialogue, and surface the experiences, thoughts, and ideas of our membership. From my many informal conversations with other instructors, I am deeply moved by the passion and commitment of our members to teaching and learning, the wellness of our students and colleagues, and the health of our community.

My involvement in the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) over the past several years has convinced me of the importance of unions as creative social forces. Not only do unions safeguard the livelihood and wellness employees, but unions can also contribute to the equity, justice, and democratic function of the communities in which serve. AASUA, backed by diverse, engaged, and empowered membership, has the potential to be such a force in our community. I am committed to promoting a democratic workplace that upholds equity for all employees. To this end, I recognize the importance of cultivating solidarity within and beyond our union. I believe that only by working together, as difficult as it may

be, can we find appropriate, effective, and just solutions to the challenges we face as a community.

Ultimately, I am guided by an ethics of care for all members of our community. As a councillor for Academic Teaching Staff, I pledge to ensure that the voices and concerns of our members are heard and acted upon, and that I will contribute to our union as a powerful force for positive change within our university and community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick von Hauff