



NASA

Voting Information

Message from the NASA Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Laura Ortegon-Rico

Dear NASA Member,

We are pleased to announce the results following NASA's committee nominations.

The following NASA members have been acclaimed to NASA's Bylaws, Finance, and PAC Committees for the 2026-2028 term. Because six or fewer members applied for each committee, in accordance with policy, there is no need to hold an election.

2026-2028 Bylaws and Policy Committee Members: Elizabeth Adolf, Jody Bennett, Tonia Harris, Shenin Mehnaj, Priyanka Mittapelly, Ishaan Sachdeva
2026-2028 Finance Committee Members: Hasul Kim, Grace Tshakatumba
2026-2028 Political Action and Member Education Committee Members: Chris Bateman, Ana de Faria, Zainish Hashmi, Carrie Millar, Mirela Tomuta

More than six members expressed interested in the Grievance Committee. As such, there will be an election. The candidates for the **2026-2028 Grievance Committee** are:

Zenashe Aytenfisu
Colin Burnett
Traci Grams
Kelly McDonagh
Anita Reff
Jeff Ripley
Charlene Scharf

I encourage you to be informed – read the enclosed biographies for the candidates and cast your vote.

Voting opens at 8:30am on Monday, June 22 and closes at 4:30pm on Monday, June 29.

I would like to thank the members who self-nominated to these positions.

Your CEO, Laura Ortegon-Rico



Voting Information

Voting is open from
Monday, June 22 at 8:30 a.m. to
Monday, June 29 at 4:30 p.m.



- Go to the NASA website: www.nasaunion.ca
- Login with your CCID
- Click the "Vote Now" button on the top left hand side of the page
- You will be taken to the election page where you can cast your vote

Please be sure to have your voice heard – VOTE!

Grievance Committee Candidates

Zenashe Aytenfisu - Community Service-Learning

I work with Community Service-Learning (CSL), where I set up volunteer opportunities for students with local nonprofits. Before working at the University of Alberta, I worked and studied mainly in the international development sector. I am a longtime volunteer in Edmonton, and particularly within African, Caribbean, and Black communities.

I am currently serving as a NASA steward, which is a role I am grateful to hold. I would love to further support NASA members by joining the grievance committee, and feel prepared to do so through my steward experience. I have also audited a Labour Law course at the University of Alberta to further strengthen my knowledge of grievances and arbitration.

Colin Burnett - Distribution Operations, Shared Services

My name is Colin Burnett. I am currently the Warehouse Coordinator under Shared Services - Distribution Operations and have been working at the UofA for 14 years. I am also a union steward with a passion for workplace equality, fairness and inclusivity. Outside of work I enjoy rock climbing, skateboarding and spending time with my wife and two cats.

I pride myself on being someone co-workers feel confident and safe to come to with questions and concerns. I am interested to serve on the Grievance Committee for these same reasons. I feel that I am a great listener who can offer a positive outlook on challenging situations and I am eager to learn and grow along the way. Thank you!

Traci Grams - Medicine

My name is Traci, and I am a dedicated, community-minded union member who strongly believes in solidarity, fairness, and the protection of workers' rights. Through both my professional and volunteer experiences, I have developed strong listening, communication, and problem-solving skills that enable me to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. I value integrity, confidentiality, and treating everyone with dignity and respect. I am committed to supporting our members and contributing to the continued strength and success of our union.

I wish to serve on the Grievance Committee because I believe every member deserves to have their concerns heard and addressed through a fair, impartial, and transparent process. The grievance process plays a vital role in protecting workers' rights, upholding our collective agreement, and fostering trust within the union. I would bring an objective and thoughtful approach to reviewing concerns, along with the empathy and professionalism needed to navigate difficult situations. Serving on the committee would provide an opportunity for me to actively support our members, promote fair and consistent decision-making, and help strengthen the culture of respect, inclusion, and accountability within our union.

Thank you for your consideration.

Grievance Committee Candidates

Kelly McDonagh - Career Centre

Since 2019, I have had the privilege of serving on NASA's Grievance Committee, and I am incredibly proud to currently serve as your Vice Chair. I am running for re-election because I am deeply committed to ensuring our collective bargaining agreement is upheld and members are represented. My passion lies in the details. I love navigating policies and discussing the intricacies of our bargaining agreement with my colleagues. I would love to continue using my experience and leadership to stand up for our membership.

Anita Reff - Medical Education, Pediatrics

I am a Medical Education Program Coordinator with the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta, supporting the Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Pediatric Infectious Diseases programs. Throughout my career, I have worked closely with faculty, learners, administrators, and staff, helping to navigate complex situations that require fairness, professionalism, and effective communication. I have extensive experience serving on committees, including hiring, program, and competence committees, where I have developed strong skills in policy interpretation, conflict resolution, confidentiality, and advocacy.

I would like to continue serving on the NASA Grievance Committee because I believe every employee deserves to be treated fairly, respectfully, and in accordance with the collective agreement. Serving on the committee has provided me with valuable opportunities to support colleagues, ensure due process is followed, and contribute to positive workplace outcomes.

I am committed to listening carefully, considering all perspectives, and approaching each matter with integrity and impartiality. The work of the Grievance Committee is essential to maintaining trust between employees and the organization, and I value the opportunity to help protect the rights and interests of NASA members.

Continuing in this role would allow me to build on the knowledge and experience I have gained while continuing to contribute to a fair, respectful, and supportive workplace for all members.

Jeff Ripley - TIM Electrical

I have been a university employee for 23 years, I have always enjoyed being on the campus, helping our campus grow and keeping the old infrastructure in working order. I have been a Maintenance Electrician for the past 12 years here and look forward to many more. I like to assist NASA members where and when I can, trying to assist the greater community in creating and maintaining a safe campus for all. I have been a grievance committee member last year and would like to continue to serve on the grievance committee once again.

Charlene Scharf - Governance

I have been on the Grievance Committee since February 2024. I have received training and have sat to review a few Grievances. I am also the Appeals and Compliance Assistant and my job is to review and assist with processes for the various types of appeals. I also have received training on SGBV policy and on committee procedure, fairness. I also had served on the EDI committee for 2 years and am a long time member of/served on committees at a local and national level with Amnesty International Canada. I would like to continue my role on the this committee.