



COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

## 2024-2025 Elections Chemistry Division: Councilor Candidates

**Position Purpose:** The CUR Council is a multidisciplinary body providing advisory input to the Board, so they have a broader perspective when making resource investment decisions. The Council serves in a communication capacity, surfacing key items arising from the Divisions, bridging the insight of the Division to the work of CUR as a whole, and serving as one means of information and resource dissemination from the central organization to the Divisions and members.

### Needed Qualifications:

- Communication: Professional and effective communicators, experienced in difficult conversations and able to hear and disseminate community needs
- Foresight: Individuals able to look to the best interests of CUR into the future when discussing various issues impacting CUR members and higher education
- Creativity: Thoughtful supporters of change, able to think outside the box to find new initiatives
- Collaborative Spirit: Team players making space for all voices to be heard, furthering the collective understanding of the group, and cultivating outcomes to best serve CUR and its membership

*There is 1 individual running.*

*You may vote for the candidate presented to be elected as a councilor for this division.*

Candidate information is presented on the following pages. Click on each candidate name below to be taken to their Information In the document.

- [Robert Bachman](#)

# Robert Bachman, The University of the South

## *Chemistry Division Nominee*

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### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

#### **Describe your leadership experience both within CUR and extramural.**

I have mentored 81 undergraduate and high school research students during the 30 years I have been a faculty member. These students have been co-authors of many articles as well as campus, regional, national, and international conference presentations. Beyond my own student-faculty engagement, I have been a change-maker for undergraduate research at my institution. In 2003, I organized an ad hoc taskforce to increase campus-wide undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities (URSCA). This group started the conversation about increasing recognition and engagement in this practice. In 2007 and 2008, I led two teams of colleagues (faculty, staff, and administrators) to a pair of CUR workshops on institutionalizing and sustaining a campus-wide URSCA structure. These efforts launched the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, and I served as Director for nine years. During that period, I guided the development of the office's first two strategic plans and implemented their goals. As the Director, our Advancement team and I successfully generated the first endowment to support the URSCA program. More recently as department chair, we communicated the value of URSCA to a donor who gave a significant gift to support this work in chemistry.

To expand URSCA opportunities to all chemistry-interested students, I have implemented a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) in my intermediate-level course. I have shared this model widely via national meeting symposia and a book chapter. Additionally, as the director of our office, I actively collaborated with numerous colleagues across campus to grow a research-rich culture that invites all students to join the conversation and experiences.

#### **How will your skills help the Council successfully uphold its charge?**

Attendance at Posters on the Hill and several CUR workshops allowed me to see the importance of the organization. Consequently, I stood for election as a Councilor in 2007 and maintained that role until 2020. I served in a variety of leadership roles as a representative. I was the Vice-Chair of the division from 2017 until 2020. I was a member of the division nominations committee for seven years and served as its chair for four years. Moreover, I was the chair of the CUR nominations committee for two years, one of which resulted in my selection as Volunteer of the Year (2015). Additionally, I was the chair of a CUR-wide Membership Engagement Taskforce for two years and a divisional Chemistry Advocacy Group for three years. Lastly, I served CUR beyond the organization as a facilitator at multiple workshops and as a department reviewer. In the new Councilor role, I plan to apply the knowledge from these experiences and build new bridges among the divisions in ways that help achieve the organization's strategic goals.

I look forward to working with my division representatives as we seek innovative ways to engage our membership and possible new members. Additionally, I am excited to share divisional ideas and goals with the Council and the Board and Executive Committee.