

VU Council Nomination 2026 – Policy Statement – Dr. Gayathri Rajaraman

am seeking nomination to the Victoria University Council to contribute strategic, evidence-informed leadership during a period of significant transformation in the higher education sector. As a Senior Lecturer with leadership in curriculum innovation, assessment reform, and student engagement, I bring a strong understanding of how institutional strategy is realised in practice, alongside a deep commitment to equity, quality, and student success for Victoria University's diverse student cohorts.

I recognise that Council's role, as defined by the Victoria University Act 2010, is centred on governance, oversight, and long-term direction. I would approach this responsibility with a clear understanding of fiduciary duties, contributing to robust discussions on financial sustainability, risk, and institutional performance. I am particularly committed to ensuring that strategic decisions are evidence-informed and responsive to the needs of key stakeholders, including students, staff, industry partners, and the broader community.

My leadership sits at the intersection of policy and practice. As a foundation member of the First Year College, I have contributed to the implementation of the VU Block Model and led work in assessment reform, including research on student anxiety and wellbeing in the context of institutional change, to inform institutional approaches to improving retention, engagement, and student success. I bring to Council a balanced, evidence-based perspective on how strategic initiatives impact students, staff, and learning outcomes in real-world contexts.

In addition, as Co-Chair of the International Block Intensive Learning and Teaching Association (IBILTA) Australia–Asia Regional Committee, I contribute to international collaboration across the higher education sector. This role enables the exchange of best practices in curriculum innovation, student engagement, and block teaching, strengthening institutional approaches through global partnerships and shared learning.

I am motivated to contribute actively to Council and its committees, particularly in academic governance, audit and risk, and strategy. My approach is collaborative and analytical, underpinned by constructive challenge to support rigorous, well-informed decision-making that advances academic quality, financial sustainability, and stakeholder outcomes.

I am committed to representing staff perspectives with integrity while maintaining a whole-of-university view. I recognise that Council members must act in the best interests of the institution, and I will bring a strategic perspective that clearly evaluates the implications of decisions across students, staff, industry, and the broader community.

As a Council member, I will offer a distinctive combination of frontline academic insight, international collaboration, and evidence-informed leadership to strategic decisions that are academically robust, globally connected, and responsive to the communities Victoria University serves.