2015 EPC Board Nominees – Statements of Candidacy

Radha Adhar

I am very happy to be nominated to serve on the Energy Policy and Climate’s Student Representative Board and look forward to working with you all should I be elected. When I started this program two years ago, classes averaged $2900.00. At the time this expense felt like a worthwhile investment in my future and I was willing to make budgetary sacrifices elsewhere to get a Hopkins education. Today, however, I struggle with registration. Tuition has skyrocketed to approximately $3600.00 without the commensurate increase in quality. For example, more classes than ever appear to be offered online and it is unclear how student evaluations are used to assess professors. There are also insufficient opportunities for students to learn from each other through seminars and round tables, and we lack a robust alumni network.

If I am elected to the board, I will focus on ensuring that the Johns Hopkins Administration does not take our tuition for granted and organizes opportunities for alumni and current students to work and learn together.

I am committed to improving this program and ask for your support.

Paul Burman

I am pleased to be nominated to serve my fellow students and colleagues on the Student Representative Board for the Energy Policy and Climate (EPC) program at JHU. A strong Student Board represents a positive step forward for EPC, and has already made significance progress in improving our quality of education and the relevance of our program. But more work must be done to help further promote the program, attract quality students and faculty, and provide students with the skill set necessary to confront myriad energy challenges.

For the last nine years, I have worked on climate change and energy issues. I have worked in domestic policy and state based advocacy for climate legislation, as well as private sector initiatives to reduce GHG emissions through the use of internal abatement and financial mechanisms. Currently, I work for Winrock International, implementing USAID projects that increase energy access and improve climate resilience in Nigeria and Vietnam, and build the capacity of the private sector.

While EPC is still in its nascent stages, we have the unique opportunity to shape the direction and focus of the program to meet increasingly complex energy challenges, both domestic and abroad. I'd welcome the opportunity to serve and kindly request your support.

Evan Jurkovich

I’m honored to have been nominated and appreciate the opportunity to run for the Energy Policy and Climate (EPC) Student Representatives Board of Directors. I’m on the homestretch of my
degree, having been a part of the EPC program for two and a half years. Over this time I’ve seen the EPC program go through ups and downs. I’ve become engaged with administration and the Board sharing thoughts and concerns to help the EPC program grow stronger and into the program that it can and should be.

I care deeply about the EPC program. There are few programs that bring this subject matter together and can approach it with technical and policy expertise. The EPC program has an opportunity to be a leader in shaping our energy and climate future. But I also care deeply about the EPC program because it’s my program. And it’s your program. And it’s each of the EPC students’ program. I want and expect the best educational opportunities from Johns Hopkins, and I know you do, too. That’s why last year I helped lead a student letter to Johns Hopkins’ Administration detailing concerns after the fallout of the EPC program’s last director to make sure student voices would be heard and to inject some level of accountability to JHU.

The creation of the Board last year was a great idea, and I appreciate the work the board has done. I want to keep that work moving forward. I believe the Board has two primary roles – to look after the educational needs and desires of students and to add value to the educational experience through opportunities outside of the classroom including helping students connect and network. I ask for your vote so I can do just that.

**Marta Tomic**

After four classes, I can unabashedly say that I’m thrilled with the EPC program. For that reason, I accept the nomination for Student Board of Representatives. I hope that my ability to listen, speak up and be direct contributed to my selection.

If elected, I plan to carry on the admirable work done by previous board members. I will strive to understand fellow classmates’ concerns and suggestions for an improved program. Most importantly, I would effectively convey student recommendations to the Administration, collaboratively identify solutions, monitor implementation, and update our class through regular communication.

My work experience directly contributes to the strength of my candidacy. Years of private and public sector work have provided a breadth of relevant experience. In my current role at the Maryland Energy Administration, I contribute to effective energy policy, climate change mitigation strategies, and successful renewable energy project development. These real world experiences can provide both classmates and the Administration guidance on future opportunities, speakers and relevant course offerings.

I will be part of the EPC program for two more years. I would be honored to spend my time working toward a more reputable and renowned program, one that complements the motivated group of individuals I’m proud to call my classmates. I look forward to continuing the legacy of a proactive student board and creating a stronger, more resourceful, and effective program.