

Brief Professional Biography

Barbara Frisken is Professor of Physics at Simon Fraser University. She completed her Ph.D. in physics at the University of British Columbia in 1989, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara, before joining the faculty at SFU in 1992. Her research interests include structural studies of soft matter systems aimed at understanding relationships between microstructure and bulk properties; current projects focus on anion-conducting polymer membranes for fuel cells. She served as Chair of her department from 2006-2011, during which time she led a team of 30 faculty members and also chaired search committees for staff and faculty and the department's salary and tenure review committee. She currently serves as Chair of her department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. She has chaired two university-wide committees; the University Curriculum Implementation Task Force (2004-2006) and the Teaching Assessment Working Group (2017-2019). Barbara's involvement in the CAP includes a term as Chair of the Division of Condensed Matter and Materials Physics (1997-1998), Chair of the Publications Committee (1999-2001), Chair of the Committee to Encourage Women in Physics (2002-2005), Director of Academic Affairs (2012-2015), and Co-Chair of the 2019 CAP Congress Local Organizing Committee.

Candidate Statement

I have been involved in the Canadian Association of Physicists throughout my career, starting with participation in the 1980 Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference held at UBC. I am involved in the CAP because I believe that we need a strong organization to represent Canadian physicists and foster Canadian physics. The CAP is that organization and has the mandate to both promote and support the Canadian physics community. However, not all of our colleagues are members and not all of them see value in the organization. In addition, the capacity of the organization – of both staff and volunteers – is stretched. I have agreed to be nominated as a candidate for the position Vice-President Elect because I feel it is important to address these issues. I plan to work with the Board to both assess the impact of the varied activities in which the CAP engages and help the organization refocus its energies on our most successful and valued programs.