

Committee: **Town and Gown Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Chris Thompson**

Address:

257 Riverside Drive, London, ON, N6H 1E8

Occupation: **Manager, Post-Degree Programs, Western Continuing Studies, Western University**

Work experience: **WESTERN CONTINUING STUDIES Manager of Post-Degree Programs, 2010 to present - Responsible for the overall academic and operational strategies for 11 post-degree diplomas and two certificates; programs are delivered fully online or hybrid format - Designs, develops, and evaluates curriculum in consultation with program instructors and industry advisors to ensure course content is relevant and provides experiential learning opportunities for students - Hires and manages performance for approximately 65 contract instructors annually, including providing training, coaching, and providing resources for online instruction - Leads change processes for department, including developing and coordinating user acceptance testing for new online database and registration system - Collaborates with campus partners (Faculties, Office of the Registrar, SCAPA/DAP) to create new programs, facilitate changes to current offerings, and to develop standards for Western-driven processes - Advises students in matters academic, personal, and otherwise, and provides coaching as necessary WESTERN UNIVERSITY, HOUSING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES Housing Communications and Learning Coordinator, 2007 to 2010 - Planned and directed the development and administration of marketing and communications activities that promote and enhance the image of Housing and the University - Managed relationships with community partners, academic institutions, and vendors external to the University - Delivered high-quality, professional workshops on Housing key marketing messages to various groups, including prospective students and parents, and numerous on-campus departments; produced and edited highly-touted Orientation video in 2009 - Employed various assessment tools and techniques to evaluate success of training, marketing and recruitment efforts - Managed the Residence Tours program from recruitment and selection to training and professional development; supervised 65+ residence Tour Guides annually - Coordinated work teams with varied backgrounds in the development of improved web processes, including the development of new Residence at Western website WESTERN UNIVERSITY, HOUSING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES Residence Admissions Associate, 2006 to 2007 WESTERN UNIVERSITY, HOUSING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES Residence Clerk, 2005-2006 Education: WESTERN UNIVERSITY, London Master of Education in Educational Policy Studies – Leadership Focus, 2014 (in progress) - Online courses include: Power, Politics, and Policy in Education; Theories of Educational Administration; Education Finance; Educators and the Law; and, Seminar in Leadership LEARNING RESOURCE NETWORK, River Falls, Wisconsin Program Management Institute, 2012 - Subjects included: Learning and Teaching; Needs Assessment; Program Development; and, Program Analysis - Achieved score of 91% on Certified Program Planner (CPP) examination WESTERN CONTINUING STUDIES, London Professional Certificate in Adult Education, 2011 - Courses included: Teaching with Technology; Approaches to Teaching and Learning; Needs Assessment; Program Design Methods; Active Training Techniques; Assessment and Evaluation in Learning Contexts; and, Collaboration, Teams and Communities in Learning Professional Certificate in Public Sector Management, 2010 - Courses included: Managerial Communications; Strategic Analysis, Organizational Behaviour; Financial Management; and, Introduction to Human Resource Management SENECA COLLEGE, Toronto Various postgraduate courses in Corporate Communications, 2004 BROCK UNIVERSITY, St. Catharines Bachelor of Arts in Popular Culture, 2004**

Skills: **Lifelong learner with a passion for ensuring high-quality educational experiences for both students and instructors. Employs assessment and evaluation skills with systems thinking to identify challenges and improve processes with consistent success. Develops and maintains positive relationships with campus and community partners. Strives continuously to learn and develop skills and transfer knowledge to colleagues and staff. Recognized often as a strong leader, both within department and university-wide. Self-motivated and inquisitive manager with a keen interest in exploring new technologies.**

Interest reason: I have taken a keen interest in municipal politics over the last few years and feel that this is a foray into that arena which is a fantastic fit with my education and employment background. Given my experience at the University, especially with the Division of Housing and Ancillary Services, I believe that I can bring a unique perspective to the Committee.

Contributions: As noted above, my work experience at Western University makes my candidacy for this position particularly distinctive. However, above and beyond my employment at the University, I am also a part-time graduate student in the Faculty of Education, a resident of Ward 13, and my work office is located in downtown London. These competing but also complementary roles I play in the community will surely provide some interesting dialogue at the Committee table.

Past contributions: In addition to my responsibilities as a student and Western employee, I currently serve as First Vice-President with the Western Professional and Managerial Association (PMA), a group that represents nearly 1,100 staff members. My work with the PMA has afforded me the opportunity to engage in other committees including chairing the Marketing and Communications Committee, and serving on the Personal Policies Committee and Negotiations Committee. External to the PMA, I am also a member of the University's Unity Group, comprised of leaders from across Western's unions and associations, and Campus Council, which brings together the Unity Group with senior administrators and community partners.

Interpersonal: A significant portion of my paid and volunteer roles at Western involve communicating with individuals and groups at varied levels. Whether coaching the instructors that report to me, counselling students on personal and academic matters, or engaging in challenging conversations with University colleagues, I pride myself on respecting the views of all stakeholders. I have received formal training in many facets of leadership, including meeting facilitation, and hold my certification in Mental Health First Aid. Recently, I was asked to join the faculty in Western Continuing Studies' Professional Certificate in Leadership, teaching Leadership Communications to seasoned and up-and-coming business leaders in London.

Interview interest: Yes