

## **Candidate's information**

Name: Anika Casem

KOTESOL Elected Position Sought: Nomination and Elections Committee Chair

Work Affiliation(s): Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Global Campus)

KOTESOL Membership Period: Member since April 2017

### Education

- M.A. from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, awarded 2015. Major: Communication Studies.
- B.A. from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, awarded 2005. Major: Speech Communication. Second major: English.
- Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language from Front Range Community College in Longmont, Colorado awarded 2013.

### Work Experience

- Professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in the Foreign Language Education Center from 2023-present.
- Instructor at the University of Ulsan's (UOU) Language Education Center (LEC) in Mugeo-dong, Nam-gu, Ulsan-Gwangyeok-si; 2018-2023.
- Teacher at Sogang Language Program (SLP) in Suwan-dong, Gwangsan-su, Gwangju-si; 2016-2018.
- English Lab Co-Instructor at the Center for Adult Learning for Front Range Community College (FRCC CAL) in Fort Collins, CO; 2014-2016.
- Tutor/Aide at FRCC CAL in Fort Collins, CO; 2014.
- Intern at FRCC CAL in Fort Collins, CO; 2013.
- Head Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Tutor for a private home in Loveland, CO; 2002-June 2012.
- Public Speaking Instructor/Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Speech Communication Department at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO; 2005-2007.

KOTESOL Service – National

- Co-chair for KOTESOL's 2021 National Conference

#### KOTESOL Service – Chapter / SIG / National

- Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter
  - President 2021-now
  - Membership Officer 2020
- KOTESOL SIG membership
  - Women and Gender Equality
  - People of Color Teachers

#### Memberships in Other ELT and Related Associations

- Colorado Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (CoTESOL)
- Rocky Mountain Communication Association (RMCA)

Name and Signature: Anika Casem

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anika Casem". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Date: 9/27/2023

# Statement of Interest

I would like to be considered as a candidate for the National Council's Nominations and Elections Committee Chair. I want to draw people into leadership positions. I want to help them reap the benefits of professional growth and development that can be had when one becomes a leader. I say this as someone who used to constantly shy away from leadership positions and did not think I could ever be a good leader. I think teachers can learn and grow as they help teachers.

I have been involved with TESOL for about 10-years. When I first started my time with the organization, it was just as a conference attendee. When I got to South Korea I joined KOTESOL in order to attend the International Conference and I decided to get more involved with the encouragement of one of my work colleagues/friends. I became Membership Officer for the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter during the 2019-2020 year and unfortunately COVID came along and made the chapter a bit quiet as everyone tried to figure out what to do. I have been the President of Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter since 2020. I helped keep the chapter afloat during COVID and despite the worldwide pandemic our chapter was active. We held online meetings, we had a strong showing at the International Conference, and we hosted the 2021 National Conference. When I have taken an office and made a commitment, there is no doubt that I will follow through. I think I have the potential to help nudge people into roles they will excel in. When things became more active and COVID restrictions lifted we were able to gain more officers. I have moved recently and this has given me access to more people, which means that network has grown bigger and gives me a larger pool of future leaders to draw from. I have been able to wear a variety of hats during my involvement in KOTESOL and having that knowledge will help me find people who could be good for future positions.

If elected, I plan to actively look for people who could fill the various roles in our organization. I will continue to be active and to help teachers at the national level. I will turn to other officers when necessary and try to help find people that will make our organization even stronger and better.

I have read and am aware of the contents in Korea TESOL's Code of Conduct.

Anika Casem



9/27/2023

# Endorsement for Anika Casem for the Position of Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

September 27, 2023

Dear Nominations and Elections Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Anika Casem for the position of Nominations and Elections Committee Chair. Anika has demonstrated a willingness to step up a task when there is a need, and I believe she will apply this spirit of service to the position of nominations and elections chair.

I first worked with Anika during the *Reel to Real: 2021 KOTESOL Filmmaking Festival and National Conference*, where she served as conference co-chair. She was in charge of a variety of tasks, including gamification of the conference, overseeing the conference Discord channel, anchoring one of the conference Zoom accounts, and handling a variety of official conference communications. When there was a task that needed to be done, Anika was someone who could be counted on to give it a try.

Anika has been serving as the Busan Chapter President since the pandemic. Restarting chapter meetings following the pandemic was a difficult task, but Anika was willing to meet the challenge. She has been faithfully serving the Busan Chapter even though she recently moved away from Busan to Yongin. Her willingness to serve long-distance demonstrates her dedication to the chapter.

Since the Nominations and Elections Committee Chair is responsible for identifying potential leaders in KOTESOL, the person who holds this position should be familiar with the different positions on National Council. As Busan Chapter President, Anika has participated in National Council meetings, and she is familiar with the duties of different elected positions. Her own experience as a national conference co-chair will help her understand the qualities needed in an International Conference Co-Chair. The Nominations and Elections Committee Chair is a talent scout who encourages people to try out new roles in KOTESOL, and Anika herself models this readiness to step up to a task.

Sincerely,

*Heidi Vande Voort Nam*

Heidi Vande Voort Nam

Chongshin University

KOTESOL member from 2002, lifetime member

September 27, 2023

Dear Nominations and Elections Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate **Anika Casem as Nominations and Elections Committee Chair for the KOTESOL National Council.** Anika and I first became acquainted as colleagues at the University of Ulsan where we developed a pre-pandemic blended learning program together and have since had opportunities to co-create various professional development ventures. Currently I am an assistant professor at Myongji University, Seoul campus, and am acting co-president of the Seoul KOTESOL Chapter.

Shared ventures with Anika include navigating leadership of the Busan chapter through the pandemic where she took on the role of Busan chapter president, and later as 2021 KOTESOL national conference co-chair where she was a lynchpin to logistics and communications: as co-leader in meetings and planning, as well as spear-heading the Discord server and gamification of the event. We co-facilitated several Busan chapter events and a joint-Busan and Daegu chapter event. She joined the team of presenters representing our KOTESOL SIG (Special Interest Group) at the Fifth Congress of the Asian Association of Women's Studies held at Ehwa University in 2019. Anika communicates clearly, is responsive and reflective, and is a superior task manager. She focuses on current issues and relays their importance in an elegant and persuasive way.

Anika is clever, congenial, and asserts herself with her prowess in her endeavors. She carefully considers plans and executes them. She has proven ability to draw in the right talent for each position required in a project or organization, which makes her the perfect choice as Nominations and Elections Chair.

Sincerely,



Rhea Metituk  
Assistant Professor, Myongji University  
KOTESOL member from 2017 to present