

Yue Cheng Service, Leadership, and Diversity Statement

I request consideration for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in the School of Data Science at the University of Virginia (UVA).

During my last five years at GMU, I have invested a significant time in service to the research community as well as GMU. This statement describes my service contributions during my last five years at George Mason University (GMU) and my agenda for continued contribution to the service and diversity promotion at UVA for years to come.

1 Research Community

I have served as a technical program committee member for many top-tier Computer Science conferences in the field of computer systems, distributed systems, high-performance computing, and super-computing. I have served as a reviewer for over 25 conferences and workshops in the last five years. I have continuously served as a journal reviewer for top-tier journals in the field (ACM Transactions on Computer Systems, ACM Transactions on Storage, IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems, etc.). I was the local arrangement chair for ACM/IEEE Symposium on Edge Computing (SEC), 2019, and IEEE International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), 2020, being responsible for all the local arrangements including hotel reservation, equipment renting/purchasing, virtual environment setup, volunteer training and organization, etc. I served as the publication chair for the ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage), 2022, and will serve the organization chair for HotStorage 2023 as well. I have also served on NSF panels for four times from 2019 to 2021.

2 GMU

I have served on Computer Science Department's Ph.D. admissions committee for two years. I also had the opportunity to serve on the department's tenure-track recruitment committee for two years from 2021 to 2022. As part of the Ph.D. committee, I have served as a panelist in an College of Engineering organized NSF CAREER writing workshop.

3 Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

I am committed to diversity, broadly defined, as a firm standard we should strive for and embrace in the mission of higher education. I have been mentoring women to do research in systems, training students who are minorities and underprivileged in various capacities as a mentor. As a faculty member at GMU, I have had the privilege of working with and mentoring excellent undergraduate and graduate students from diverse backgrounds. I have engaged in various activities in the past to bring non-CS students into computing-related disciplines, broaden the participation of underrepresented students in computing, and create inclusive classrooms in teaching.

As a faculty, I am also committed to utilizing various resources that I have access to, including university resources, funding resources, and community opportunities, to promote a climate that values diversity and inclusion. For example, many students are not aware of accessibility services, even when they need them. Moreover, determining reasonable accommodations for those who need them are left to the individual faculty, with broad guidelines from the university, a deficiency in our academic system.

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- Accessibility is key to diversity. Many students are not aware of accessibility services, even when they need them. Moreover, determining reasonable accommodations for those who need them are left to the individual faculty, with broad guidelines from the university, a deficiency in our academic system. I will work with student accessibility services to help those with needs, and will be doing my best to contribute to help them in the future.
- I will leverage resources from my ongoing NSF grants and industry gifts to build better diversity. Specifically, I plan to recruit graduate students with academic and demographic diversity. Currently, my research grants can support six graduate research assistants. I will give priority to female students and students with interdisciplinary background. I will get actively involved in communities, such as Women in Computing, Grace Hopper Celebration, and CRA-W Computing Research Association for Women, to advertise the recruitment. I will also pursue REU funds associated with my research grants to actively engage undergraduate students from minority groups to participate in systems research.
- As an active researcher, I see first-hand the significant disparity across gender, race, and socioeconomic backgrounds in our research community through various functions. It is our moral responsibility to alleviate this disparity by engaging female and other underrepresented minorities, especially junior researchers. I am recently nominated as the co-chair of IEEE Special Technical Community on Operating Systems (STCOS), leading the next steps of STCOS community in the next several years. With this new role, I will take several strategies, specifically. First, I will create an inclusive environment by involving female and underrepresented researchers as organizers and keynote speakers in various STCOS-sponsored workshops that we plan to hold in the next academic year. Second, with a plan to significantly expand the IEEE STCOS community, I will strive to create a balance by advertising to involve more members from underrepresented groups.

4 Concluding Remarks

This statement summarizes my service and diversity promotion as an assistant professor for the last five years. I strongly believe in the value of diversity and inclusion: our strength as a society is in our diversity. Embracing diversity by building an inclusive and welcoming environment for all genders, ages, races, and socioeconomic status in a systematic manner, will be key to broadening participation in computing in general and in data systems and data science in particular. I am committed to promoting a climate that values diversity and inclusion, and creating such an inclusive environment in my future career. I am committed to continued excellence in service and diversity promotion at UVA in the future.