<u>**Statement of Service**</u>

I consider "Actions are bigger than Words" as central to all I do. Developing a service philosophy in an academic environment might not be the easiest task. Developing a powerful strategy that matches educational institutions' values, will elevate a more favorable view of education with a proactive support such as listening, which is the trigger of my service philosophy. Although service could be thought to refer to responsibilities and obligations, it should also be considered an opportunity and a reward. While service commonly involves the responsibilities of committee work, some of which might be required of faculty, service also provides various opportunities for interactions that are rewarding. Service is essential to the proper functioning and future well-being of the University of Houston. Without the active participation of faculty in governance and other activities, University of Houston cannot adapt to the ever-changing needs of students, the community, and society.

Since stepping in my duties as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in January 2016, this administrative assignment is inherently tied to academics and involves what I consider to be service to students and faculty through their academic impact. I found this responsibility to be highly rewarding since it afforded me the opportunity to work with highly talented and hard-working students throughout their years at University of Houston. Service would entail serving as a committee member or advisor to students as well as in the capacity of being an informal mentor to undergraduates. As such, I strive to serve as a committee member. In fact, I never say **"no"** when asked to serve on a student's committee, faculty ad hoc, standing committees or senate committees.

Departmental service is integrated within my everyday work, so I do not consider it as an independent pillar when it comes to my personal performance. I believe that assisting others within the department is a major service aspect. In addition to my formal service, I focused on developing courses and capstone sequences. I believe that the key attributes for successful service are willingness to help, share knowledge, collaborate, and be involved with collective concerns and institutional development. I match my ambitious standards and my passion for progress with my service philosophy through different initiatives to engage students, teaching assistants and faculty. All the initiatives are thoughtfully created and are always followed with strict adherence. Below are some examples of my initiatives:

Initiative to engage faculty: **"Insights into Teaching and learning"**: The purpose is to explore new tools and emerging technologies, approaches, and teaching strategies to facilitate vibrant, challenging, and reflective learning experiences at the Computer Science Department. It provides the team with flexibility and, most importantly, increases cohesion and trust among the department members.

Initiative to engage teaching assistants and mentors: **"Navigating your role as a TA"** in cooperation with CAPS and EOS I developed a training for TA and mentors to help them create a positive learning environment, to equip them with resources and to help them understand UH policies and procedures.

Initiative to engage students: **"Workshop for All"** provides supportive environments for students to explore, innovate, take risks, and solve problems. It connects the learning from across science, technology, engineering, and math.

I always looked at the university service as an opportunity to build cross-sectional networks and to increase the department visibility. It increases the strength of the organizational culture and raises appreciation of other disciplines and units. I organized and initiated many programs such as:

Computer Science Tech Resilience mentorship program: In collaboration with Microsoft, I initiated a Computer Science **Tech Resilience mentorship program** that pairs computer science students with trained computer science seniors to help teach the necessary non-tech skills needed to ensure a successful and enjoyable study journey.

Scholar Excellence in Research program: my mission is to engage students in the research process and facilitate the discovery of new knowledge through collaboration. This program provides peer support for undergraduates seeking a research career and promotes their research through an annual **showcase of undergraduate scholars**.

Coogtube: **CoogTube** is a collection of computer science videos made by University of Houston students that cover material that can be found in the Introduction to Programming class and Programming and Data Structures class at the University of Houston.

My scholarly service extends with a devotion to the various responsibilities and opportunities for other outreach activities that benefit individuals and organizations in my community not directly involved in academia. Being involved as a founder or advisor for many organizations in need of expertise or assistance from academics is another potential means of helping

local educational communities. I strongly believe that one of the main roles of academics is to have an impact on their communities. Partnerships with schools, colleges, other universities, governmental bodies/agencies and community organizations and influential individuals, help in strengthening the community, increasing the university visibility, and elevating intrinsic rewards of academics. My consulting clinic program and Women Empowerment Booster highly support my high interest in engaging with the community to create a better future through incremental civic services.

Consulting Clinic: is a **practicum program** in which second and third year STEM students, under the direct supervision of Dr. Rizk, assist Houston-area entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations by helping in implementing the technological solution as an end-product.

Women Empowerment Booster @CS: Diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of our core values, shape our culture and drive our social life. Women's empowerment may be defined as including accepting women's viewpoints, or trying to seek them, raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. **Women Empowerment Booster (WEB) is** a model offering guidance to schools on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace and community through service learning.

My scholarly service further extends to the level of professional organizations. For example, opportunities to chair, respond, or review exist in professional organizations that hold annual conferences. Additionally, opportunities to serve as an elected official involved in conference planning and logistics are abundant. Aside from involvement at conferences, the role of serving on the editorial board of professional journals is an important opportunity for and duty of scholars. Already, I have had the opportunity to be involved in several service opportunities with professional organizations at the conference level and on multiple editorial boards. Not only do these forms of service afford essential experience, but they also play a vital function in the overall scholarly community.

Another important area of academic impact is contributing to the professional community. I founded and am currently the counselor of the NSM-IEEE student Branch (STB16733, school code 2502501), and I founded and currently I am the faculty sponsor ACM-W student Chapter: Univ of Houston-CougarettesUH (Chapter Group ID: 184906-2020). I succeeded in adding the University of Houston as a site contest at the South-Central USA Regional Contest of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the International Collegiate Programming Contest, known as the ICPC.. ICPC is an algorithmic programming contest for college students. It is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contests in the world. I am a faculty coach for Adobe Analytics Challenge. The Adobe Analytics Challenge has been a unique analytics-focused business case competition where university students are given the opportunity to use Adobe's industry-leading analytics products and access to real-world data from leading organizations. As a coach, I have been successful in developing a team mentality and in encouraging students to compete with ambition in the following competitions: IEEEXtreme is a global challenge in which teams of IEEE Student members compete in a 24-hour time span against each other to solve a set of programming problems; ACM_ICPC is an annual multi-tiered competition among the universities of the world; Adobe Analytics Challenge uncovers the brightest minds and most passionate talent in analytics; and The Kaggle is specific to data science and data analytics problem solving.

To conclude, service is a vehicle for collaboration, learning, knowledge-sharing and creativity. I strongly believe that my commitment and willingness for service were established and developed due to my cultural background and through my extensive experience in volunteer and professional work. My academic and professional roles have required working under pressure, multi-tasking, delivering within tight timeframes, achieving high levels of quality, designing, and introducing change mechanisms, and demonstrating commitment and high ethical standards. My commitment as a faculty contributes to strengthening the University of Houston to act as a community of interdependent members rather than as a body of independent individuals.

I will keep listening to better understanding students, faculty and community needs and consequently put significant contributions into actions.

For further information on my academic and community service, please check my personal website at www.uh.edu/nouhadrizk.