IFAAMAS Board Elections 2026 Statement: Hau Chan

Bio: I am an assistant professor in the School of Computing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I obtained my Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stony Brook University in 2015, under the supervision of Luis Ortiz. I completed three years of postdoctoral fellowships, at Trinity University in 2015-2017, under the supervision of Albert Jiang, and at the Laboratory for Innovation Science at Harvard University in 2018, under the supervision of David Parkes and Karim Lakhani. I worked with Milind Tambe and Eric Rice as a summer fellow in the Center for AI in Society at USC in 2017.

I have been conducting research in key areas of AI and multi-agent systems, focusing on game theory, mechanism design, and their applications. I have published around 90 papers at premier AI conferences (AAAI, AAMAS, ECAI, ICML, IJCAI, NeurIPS, and UAI) and journals (AIJ and JAIR) and other interdisciplinary conferences (ECML/PKDD, SDM, ICDM, and WINE) and journals (DAMI, TEAC, TCS, ORL, and GEB). I have received a 2015 SIAM SDM Best Paper Award, a 2016 AAMAS Best Student Research Paper Award, a 2018 IJCAI Distinguished PC Member Recognition, a 2022 IJCAI Distinguished SPC Member Recognition, and a 2022 IJCAI Early Career Spotlight.

Involvement with the AAMAS and related communities: I have attended AAMAS conferences frequently since 2016 and am a co-author of twelve AAMAS papers. I was involved in organizations as a tutorial organizer (AAMAS 19-20, 22-23), a workshop organizer (AAMAS 22-26), a co-chair for the Doctoral Consortium (AAMAS 21-22), a co-chair for Scholarships (AAMAS 21-22), a co-chair for Diversity and Inclusion Activities (AAMAS 22), and a co-chair for Finance (AAMAS 23). In addition, I served as co-chairs for the Doctoral Consortium (IJCAI 23), Demonstration Track (IJCAI 24), AI and Social Good Track (IJCAI 25-26), Student Activities (AAAI 25-26), and Job Fair (AAAI 25-26). I am currently a SIGAI outreach coordinator seeking to establish partnerships with AI conferences.

Goals: If elected, as an IFAAMAS board member, I will focus on the following two main goals:
1. Creating Opportunities for Undergraduate and Graduate Students: In recent years, efforts have been made to organize activities for students at AI and multi-agent conferences. Currently, AAMAS has only the Doctoral Consortium designed specifically for graduate students to obtain feedback on their research and connect with senior members in the AAMAS community. As such, I would like to help create additional opportunities, including summer school programs (last held at AAMAS 16), student abstract/poster programs (for undergraduate and graduate students), and welcoming activities for newcomers to AAMAS.

For undergraduate students, I would like to create an undergraduate consortium that allows them to present preliminary research ideas, connect with graduate students or advisors, obtain advice on pursuing graduate studies in AI and multi-agent systems, and receive information/materials on applying to and attending graduate schools. I would also like to extend the scholarship programs to consider undergraduate students for attending the AAMAS conference.

2. Creating Early-Career Mentorship Opportunities: Life after a graduate degree can be difficult for many early-career researchers. This is especially true when a researcher enters an academic environment as a faculty member. Many require additional advice and training to prepare for and perform the various faculty roles. Early-career faculty mentorship has been linked to faculty success, yet some environments may benefit from additional mentoring resources. As such, I would like to develop faculty mentorship programs at AAMAS for early-career researchers with activities that include grant-writing and reviewing workshops with funding agencies (e.g., NSF, US Army, UKRI, and others), connect early-career researchers to successful peers in their AAMAS areas, and develop faculty-peer networks in which early-faculty can collaborate (e.g., on research and proposals). I will also gradually expand the mentorship opportunities to other post-graduates.