

Thinking of standing for election to the Student Union?

Background

Each year a Board of Directors is elected by the students (members) to represent them:

- President (who is also Chair)
- Vice-President
- Vice President Māori
- Director (Tauranga)
- Director (Pacific)
- 7 x Directors

The WSU Board operates under a set of rules (constitution) and has an annual plan which guides its activities. The objectives of the WSU are to act as an independent, informed and principled representative group on issues affecting students; to advocate for the rights of students; and to enhance the well-being of students. All Directors are expected to become familiar with student interests and perspectives.

Board members are required to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their position professionally and in good faith. They need to take into account the likely consequences and effects that any decision could have on the well-being of the association and its members.

Qualifications

Any currently enrolled student may stand for election.

If you are thinking of standing for election it is worth asking yourself:

- Am I committed to the broad vision and mission of the WSU?
- Can I contribute the time necessary to be an effective Board member?
- Can I place the WSU's purposes and interests, and the well-being of the student body, above my own professional and personal interests

Among the competencies sought in effective Directors are:

- Being an independent, creative and critical thinker
- Having high ethical standards
- Down-to-earth common sense
- Being a listener and a learner
- An ability to see the big picture
- An ability to work as part of a team

Duties

The Directors assume office from 1st January and need to be available shortly after then. Workloads vary during the year and it is difficult to quantify how much time you need to commit. As a general rule the President is close to a full-time position (up to 30 hours per week), and the Vice-Presidents are about half that (around 12 hours per week each). All other Directors will need to allow sufficient time for:

- A regular Board meeting (up to 2 hours per fortnight),
- Preparation and reading time,
- Research, consultation and focus groups,
- Events and activities on campus.

You will also be expected to attend induction training in October or November (after the election) where you will be shown around the office and introduced to your colleagues.

Rewards

Service as a Director of the Board does have its rewards:

- Fun and good times at our various events and activities
- Satisfaction of helping other people
- Experience of committee meetings, research and focus groups
- Meeting some great new people
- Looks good on your CV
- A small financial honorarium
- Personal and professional development support