



Nomination for election to the WSU

Nominations open on Monday 24th August and close at 4.00pm on Friday 11th September 2026.

Nominations must be submitted on the official nomination form.

The election will be held from Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th October 2026.

Background

Each year a Board of six (6) Directors is elected by the students (members) to represent them:

- President (who is also Student Member of Council)
- Vice President Māori
- Executive Director (Engagement)
- Executive Director (Academic)
- Executive Director (Tauranga)
- Executive Director (Pacific)

The WSU Board operates under a set of rules (constitution) and has strategic and business plans which guide 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

All Board members will assume office from the date that the final election results are published. This will be around the 14th October and Directors will need to be available to take up their position from that time. 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-President is about half that (around 12 hours per week each). Everyone will need to allow sufficient time for:

- Board meetings,
- Student Representative Council meetings (and various standing committees),
- 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