

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

STUDENTS' UNION

A stylized blue falcon head logo, facing right, with a sharp beak and a single eye. The falcon's head is integrated into the end of the word 'UNION' in the main title.

NOMINATION PACKAGE

STUDENTS' UNION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUMMER 2023 OPENINGS

What Position Am I Running For?

The Students' Union is a **not-for-profit organization** governed by a **Board of Directors**. This governing body determines the overall strategic purpose of the Students' Union and provides broad organization oversight.

The Students' Union Board of Directors is made up of 12 undergraduate students, with a minimum of 2 spots reserved for individuals studying on the Brantford campus.

As members of the Board, your responsibilities are to:

- Participate in training and put into practice the Policy Governance (Carver Model) system of corporate governance.
- **Prioritize attendance at all Board meetings.**
- Prepare for Board meetings by reading materials in advance in order to make informed decisions and positively contribute to respectful debate.
- Understand that while individual directors will bring their respective questions, opinions, and suggestions to debate, the Board makes a collective decision through majority vote.
- Avoid conflict of interest with respect to the Board's fiduciary responsibility.
- Participate in evaluation of operational performance and self-evaluation of the Board's performance based on established metrics.

As a candidate for the Board of Directors, you **DO NOT** need to develop a platform. Instead, you should focus on explaining to current Directors of the Board how you will carry out the responsibilities outlined above:

- Have you reviewed the Policy Governance resources provided?
- Will you prepare for, and attend meetings?
- What are the individual characteristics you will bring to the Board that will contribute to constructive teamwork and productive debate?

Key Date(s):

- **Nomination Packages due** – September 17, 2023, at 11:59pm

Required Documents:

In this package you will find the documents that you are required to complete and submit in order to fulfill your nomination and qualify as a candidate:

Nomination Form

Proof of Registration

Proof of Age

Signature Page

To better understand the Students' Union and the Board of Directors you are strongly encouraged to familiarize yourself with:

- Students' Union Constitution
- Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Policy Manual 2022-2023
- Board of Directors Manual 2022-2023
- Policy Governance Guide

*All documents are available at www.yourstudentsunion.ca

Process

After the nomination period closes you will be invited to the next scheduled Students' Union Board of Director's meeting.

At that meeting you will be asked to do the following:

- Provide an opening Statement (maximum 3 minutes)
- Participate in a Q & A period with the Board of Directors (response time limitations will vary)
- Provide a closing Statement (maximum 1 minute)

Following closing statements, the Board of Directors will conduct a secret ballot vote using the first-past-the-post voting system.

The winner will be announced immediately following the vote, and the successful candidate will be onboarded ahead of the next scheduled Board meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Students' Union a student government?

No, the Students' Union is a non-profit organization with a membership that includes all Wilfrid Laurier Undergraduate students.

Who can run for the Students' Union Board of Directors?

All students registered in an undergraduate program at Wilfrid Laurier University are eligible for election.

Can individuals who are interested in being elected to the Board of Directors speak with current Students' Union staff members?

Yes, Students' Union staff members are generally available to chat with you about their roles.

Is a Director of the Board like being a Member of Parliament or Member of Provincial Parliament?

No, serving on the Students' Union Board of Directors is a similar experience to volunteering for other community not-for-profit organizations, like the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region or the Brant Historical Society.

Is the Board of Directors a paid position?

No, being a member of the Board of Directors is a volunteer position.

How long are Directors on the Board?

Directors of the Board are elected to one-year terms but may continue to seek election for as long as they remain fee paying members of the Students' Union (Laurier undergraduate students).

How often does the Board of Directors meet?

Typically, the Board of Directors meets monthly during the Spring/Summer term, and bi-weekly during the Fall and Winter terms.

What is the time commitment to be a Director of the Board?

Directors are required to attend monthly or bi-weekly Board meetings and participate in other sub-committee tasks. In addition, Directors should expect to set aside time in advance of meetings to read agenda packages and complete any required preparation in advance.

What is the purpose of the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors is the Students' Union's governance body, based on the [Policy Governance](#) system (the Carver Model). The role of the governing body is to:

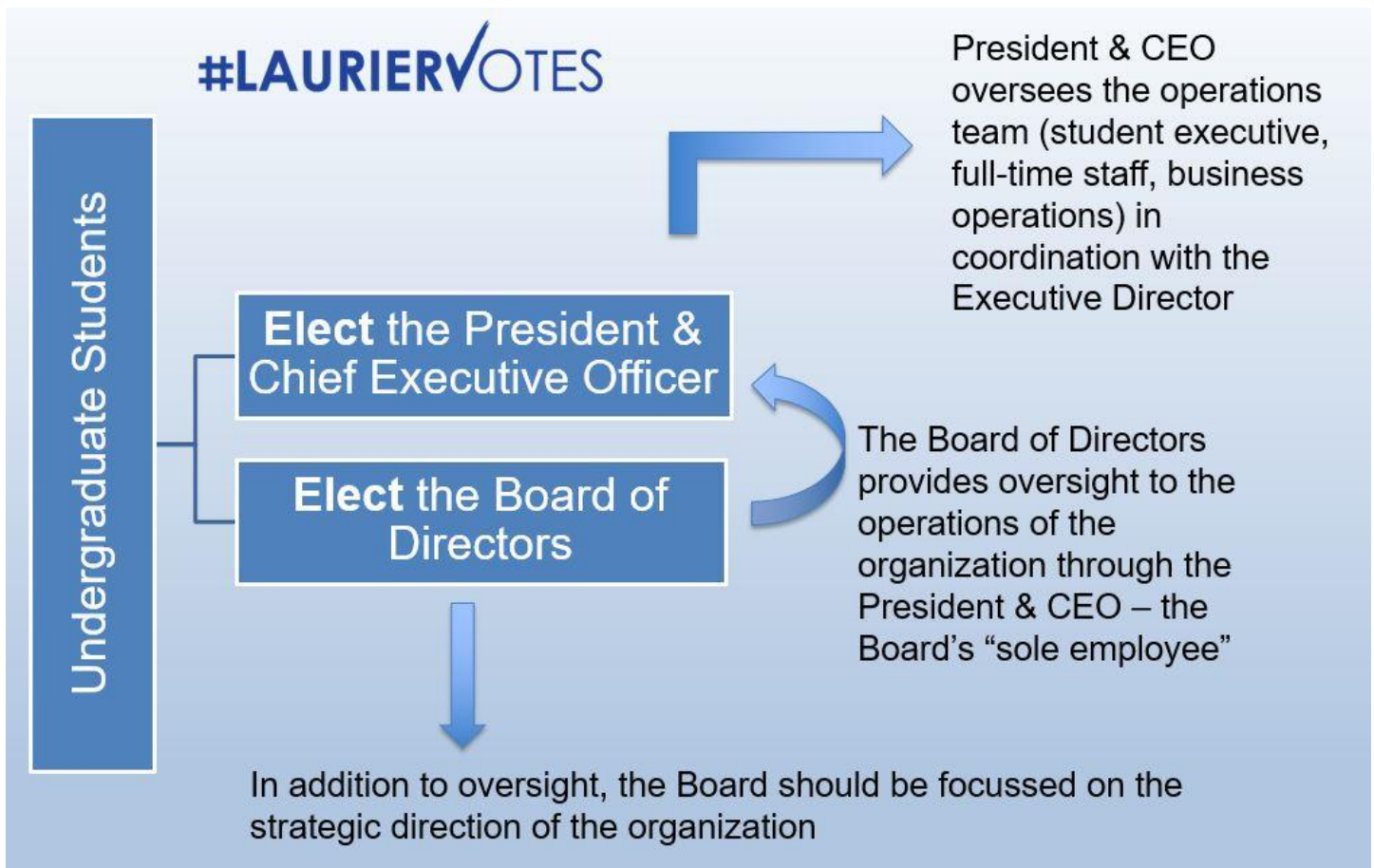
- Represent the interests of the undergraduate students at Laurier.
- Determine the overall strategic purpose and value of the Students' Union.
- Monitor the performance of the organization through the President & CEO as instructed by the guidelines outlined in the Students' Union Policy Manual.
- Self-monitor the Board's own performance and adherence to the governance practices set out in the Policy Manual.
- Continually assess the suitability of the Policy Manual as a set of operating instructions provided to the President and CEO as the sole representative of the operations team, and the Board for its own self-governance.

What does a Director of the Board do?

Directors prioritize the interests of all Laurier undergraduate students when making decisions at the Board table, and when monitoring the performance of the organization through the President & Chief Executive Officer. Each student serving as a Director must:

- Prioritize attendance at Board of Directors meetings.
- Properly prepare for meetings, including careful review of agenda packages.
- Recognize that Directors are **NOT** a student politician, they are members of a not-for-profit governing body.

- Recognize that the Board acts as a collective entity, and that Directors don't exercise individual authority over the organization or President & CEO.
- Make decisions that represent the best interest of Laurier undergraduate students based on the guidelines set out in the Students' Union Policy Manual.
- Monitor the performance of the organization through the President & CEO based on the guidelines set out in the Policy Manual.
- Support the legitimacy and authority of final decisions made by the Board, regardless of an individual Director's personal position.
- Respect the confidentiality of certain topics and discussions.





Nomination Form

Candidate Name: _____

Seeking Election for Director of the Board

WLU Student #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Local Phone Number: _____

I, _____, hereby declare my candidacy for the Students' Union Board of Directors. I understand and will comply with the Election Policy, and all other relevant policies and procedures of the Students' Union and Wilfrid Laurier University. In support of my candidacy, I have completed and submitted the required documents contained in this nomination package.

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: _____

All Board of Directors Nominations must be accompanied by 10 signatures.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED IN PERSON TO THE SU DESK AT THE STUDENTS' UNION OFFICE IN BRANTFORD OR WATERLOO (ATTN: CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER) OR BY EMAIL TO sucro@wlu.ca AND suboardchair@wlu.ca BY SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, at 11:59pm.



Proof of Registration

Candidate Name: _____

WLU Student ID: _____

I, _____, understand and will comply with the Election Policy and all other relevant policies and procedures of the Students' Union and Wilfrid Laurier University. **By signing this document, I allow the Students' Union to confirm with Wilfrid Laurier University that I am currently a registered undergraduate student at Wilfrid Laurier University and will remain registered for the Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 academic terms.**

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Proof of Age

I, _____, will be the age of 18 on or before September 17, 2023.

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: _____

**This form must be submitted with a copy of government identification bearing the Candidate's name and date of birth.*

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SIGNATURE PAGE

This form must be endorsed by 10 members of the Students' Union. It is recommended that you get more signatures than required, as some students may not qualify (e.g., Graduate Students).

We, the undersigned, nominate _____ (name of the Candidate) for the position of Director of the Board.

	Printed Name	Student Number	Signature
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