Okanagan College Board of Governors
Elected Member Positions
December 2023

Why seek election as an Okanagan College Board Member

Thank you for your interest in the Okanagan College Board of Governors (the "board").

The board is currently recruiting elected members from the support, faculty, and student representative groups for its 2024 election cycle.

Serving as a board member is an opportunity for employees and students to contribute to effective governance at Okanagan College. Board members oversee the College's achievements under the Strategic Plan and Roadmap while ensuring that the College's carries out its Mandate and offering a perspective at the board table that is unique to the area you represent..

Candidates with questions about the role and responsibilities of a Board member are invited to reach out to the Board office.

Experience and Qualifications of Board Members

While previous experience on a board is not required, the Board invites candidates to seek nomination for elected positions who understand the roles and responsibilities of a member of a board. The board also encourages candidates with experience and demonstrated skills that will enable them to contribute to board decision-making and oversight.

The board welcomes women, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity or expression (2SLGBTQIA+), and others who may contribute to diversity to seek nomination.

Fiduciary Role and Responsibility of Board Members

The board oversees the organization's mandate from the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills, strategy and plans, financial and control systems, the President, and monitor's the College's performance against the mandate, legislation, strategic directions, and financial obligations.

Board members must act and make decisions in the best interests of the College and the board. While members are elected to provide a voice to their constituents, members do not represent any specific community of interest. As board decisions are made, members are expected to carry those decisions into the community with one voice.

Board Governance at Okanagan College

- The College operates within the authority of the College and Institute Act, which also sets out the board's authority for oversight and decision-making.
- The board's responsibilities are further outlined in the Board Terms of Reference
- Board operations are carried out in accordance with OC Board Bylaws.
- The board observes a Code of Conduct for Okanagan College Board Members, which members sign annually.

Term of Appointment

Elected members serve terms starting on August 1st. Elected employee terms are for three years and elected students for one year. Elected members may seek re-election following the end of their term provided they remain eligible under the Election Rules. The Board's composition and terms of elected members are set out under sections 9 and 11 of the College and Institute Act, respectively.

Time and Travel Commitments

The Okanagan College Board of Governors meets quarterly for regular meetings in March, May, September, and December, normally on the third Tuesday of those months. A Strategic Planning Session is held in June, and a professional development session over two days at the end of October each year. The schedule is developed on a two-year cycle based on the College's fiscal year and may be accessed on the Board of Governors webpage.

Travel is required as regular meetings are held on each of our campuses located in Kelowna, Salmon Arm, Penticton, and Vernon.

The board has five committees that meet the Tuesday before a regular board meeting and as needed throughout the year to discharge each committees' work. Members are normally asked to also serve on one or more committees. Each committee's composition and eligibility to serve is included in the committee's terms of reference.

Members need to have scheduling flexibility on committee and regular meeting dates as they are expected to maintain an excellent attendance record. The occasional special meeting may be held in accordance with the board bylaws. Candidates should consider whether it is possible to develop their class or work schedules around meeting dates prior to seeking election. This process may include discussions with the elected members' supervisors or instructors. Faculty and Support may be granted leave to participate on OC-related committees as outlined under the respective collective agreements.

Board members are also invited to represent the Board of Governors at various events throughout the year such as convocation ceremonies, community receptions, and donor events.

Eligibility

During an election, employees or students meeting the current vacancy and eligibility requirements for an elected position under the Election Rules are invited to seek nomination for these positions.

- **Employee nominees** must be in good standing with their representative group and have an employment contract or a reasonable expectation of a contract that covers the period of the term of office. One board member will be elected from each of the following constituent groups:
    - **Faculty** nominees may be any faculty member or vocational instructor employed by Okanagan College who is a member of the Okanagan College Faculty Association or BC Government and Service Employees' Union (Vocational Instructors).
    - **Support** nominees may be any individual employed by Okanagan College who is a member of the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (Support Staff) or covered by the Terms and Conditions for Exempt and Excluded Employees and is not in a position excluded under Appendix A (of the Board Election Rules).

- **Student nominees** are any person enrolled as a student at Okanagan College in a program approved by Education Council. Students must be in good standing as determined by the Registrar and may not be employed by the College as a Support Staff, Faculty or Educational Administrator except when the employment falls under the following Letters of Understanding - #1 (Student), #2 (Co-op), #3 (Research projects) under the BCGEU Support Collective Agreement. Two students will be elected to the Board.

For any questions related to the Board Election Rules and Procedures, including eligibility, please contact the Registrar.

Remuneration

Board members will be reimbursed by Okanagan College for any reasonable travelling and other out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred in discharging their duties as a board member.

Elected student members will receive a $2000 stipend, pro-rated monthly, in accordance with remuneration guidelines set for boards by the BC Lieutenant Governor. Elected employee members do not receive any additional remuneration to their salary.