

# Responsibilities of a Board Member

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AUTHORITY: Governance Committee

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RELATED DOCUMENTS:

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## Purpose

This policy lists the responsibilities and duties of all members of the SUS Board of Directors.

## **Responsibilities**

1. A director must act honestly, in good faith, in the best interests of the society, and exercise the care, diligence, and skill of a reasonably prudent person, in exercising the powers and performing the functions of a director.
2. A director who is, directly or indirectly, interested in a proposed contract or transaction with the Society must disclose fully and promptly the nature and extent of the interest to each of the other directors.
3. To understand that the role of the Board is to act as an oversight body, and is not involved in the day-to-day operations, administration, or management processes.
4. To represent the Faculty or group of students the director is elected to represent (i.e. Faculty of Arts rep should represent students in academic programs under the Faculty of Arts),
5. To behave respectfully and professionally toward other board members, student union staff, and members both publically and privately (this includes all forms of media such as news articles and social media platforms).
6. To speak freely at Board meetings, but support policies, programs and decisions once established.
7. To recognize the President as the primary spokesperson for The Society, and as the only person authorized to speak for the Board or the Society.
8. To ensure that legal, regulatory and accountability obligations are met.
9. To attend and participate in all Board and General Meetings.
10. To miss no more than three (3) Board meetings in a year.
11. To work within the Board approved SUS budget.

12. To acquire a working knowledge of the BC Society Act, SUS Bylaws and Policies, Robert's Rules, and any other items governing the business of the Society.
13. Be aware of current issues concerning your Faculty or community for which you were elected and bring them to the Board when necessary.

## President Job Description

**Work Schedule:** Minimum 30 hours weekly, of which a minimum of 22 hours must be done at UFV

**Reporting to:** SUS Board of Directors

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

The President is the chief executive of SUS, and is ultimately responsible for carrying out the strategic goals and other orders and resolutions of the Board. This is a publicfacing position, with responsibility for external communications and liaising with various national, provincial, local, and university groups and committees. The position must be filled by a current student of UFV who will be enrolled in at least one four-credit course in the Fall and Winter semesters.

Note: This is an intensive and demanding role, which requires complete commitment for the entire term of office, and travel time away from home and classes. It is strongly recommended not to take more than 2-3 classes (6-9 credits) per semester for these reasons.

### RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT:

The President has specific responsibility for a variety of functions, including but not limited to the following:

- Provide strategic direction and leadership for the advancement and promotion of the objectives of the Society;
- Coordinate, in general, the activities of the Executive and the Society as a whole, and fulfill and perform duties as may be required and/or necessary to achieve Society purposes and/or objectives;
- Supervise the Vice President External, and Vice President Internal, ensuring those individuals are effectively and honorably carrying out their roles;
- Chair the Executive Committee;
- Maintain day-to-day collaboration with and general oversight of the Executive Director;
- Oversee efforts of the Society to communicate with students and the broader public;

- Be the official spokesperson and contact person for the Society, including student orientation events and all official functions the Society is invited to;
- Act as a liaison between the Society and
  - UFV Administration, including regular meetings with the UFV President;
  - UFV Board of Governors;
  - Campus, local, provincial and national media;
  - Other entities not otherwise provided for with which the Society liaises;
- Ensure adequate student representation in the decision making processes of UFV;
- Be a non-voting member of all standing and ad-hoc committees, unless otherwise appointed to the committee or resolved by the Board;
- Ensure that the duties of any vacant position in the Society are re-assigned and carried out, until such a time when the position is filled;
- Represent the interests of students at all times, with specific responsibility for non-academic issues of UFV; and,
- Uphold the Society's bylaws and other governing documents.

#### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE:**

The President, in conjunction with other Executives, has responsibility for a variety of functions, including but not limited to the following:

- Oversee the day-to-day operations, administration, and management processes of the Society in conjunction with the Executive Director;
- Develop individual Executive Goals Plans in accordance with the SUS Strategic Plan and the approved Operational Budget, and ensure the completion of all goal plan items;
- Provide a report of recent activities to the Board at each Board meeting, including all significant information which may affect the Society's operations or its Membership, and all portfolios under the Executive's position;
- Present an annual end-of-term report to the Board before leaving office;
- Act as a liaison between the Society staff and the Board, and prepare any reports on office staff matters;
- Sit on the Executive Committee;
- Continually review strategic and other plans of the Society, ensure completion of benchmarks, and revise as appropriate;
- Act as a signatory for the Society on official documents, contracts, and other matters;
- Review all contracts on behalf of the Society; with the Executive Director;
- Coordinate the investments of the Society; with the Executive Director;
- Prepare an annual operating budget for the Society for presentation to and approval by the Board and the Membership prior to March 31 at a General Meeting;

- Keep current on the goals, concerns, and needs of the Membership, including education trends and other matters which may affect the Membership in the future;
- Maintain, develop, and foster relationships with UFV and other partners in postsecondary education;
- Perform critical analysis of UFV, and other institutions involved in post-secondary education;
- Transition the incoming Executive in accordance relevant governing policy and procedures.

## **ASSETS**

- Professional work ethic, exercising good judgement, tact, initiative, and high degree of professionalism;
- Must work with and treat all people respectfully and equally;
- Excellent written and oral communication, including large-scale public speaking;
- Personable nature, able to interact with many different character types;
- Organized, and able to keep track of a large number of concurrent projects, goals, tasks, and documentation;
- Ability to effectively supervise and manage staff and volunteers, and assess performance;
- Strong critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- Willingness to learn and develop professional skills;
- Experience working in non-profit organizations, and in particular SUS
- Ability to adapt and react to changing goals and environments, a patient and flexible disposition;
- Working both independently and cooperatively as part of a team, and in nontraditional work environments and schedules
- Consistent work ethic throughout the entire year, and committed to remaining in the position for the entire year;
- Able to maintain confidentiality of sensitive information; □ Working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite.