

# WPIRG Board of Directors 2016 Election Campaign



## Rules

### NOMINATIONS

- The nomination period **opens at 10:00am Wednesday, March 9, 2016** and **closes at 4:00pm Thursday, March 24, 2016**; An information sessions about the Board of Directors and the Elections process will be held Friday, March 11, 1-2pm at the Grad House.
- Nomination forms and procedures are attached to this document and also available at [www.wpirg.org](http://www.wpirg.org) and at the WPIRG office (Conrad Grebel – CPA Room 4222) or by emailing the Election Committee at [alex@wpirg.org](mailto:alex@wpirg.org).

### CAMPAIGNING

- Candidates must submit a ½ page personal profile by email and at the All Candidates Meeting for posting in the WPIRG office, on the WPIRG website, and to be sent out over the WPIRG mailing list. Candidates will also speak briefly at the AGM and answer questions from AGM attendees.
- Candidates may prepare a 1-page "campaign" handout for members to pick up at the WPIRG office and at the AGM.

### MANDATORY MEETINGS

- Candidates must attend the All Candidates Meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2016 at either 1pm or 5pm in Conrad Grebel Room 4222.
- Candidates must attend a meeting (immediately prior to the AGM) at 4:00pm on Thursday, March 31, 2016 in Conrad Grebel Room 4222. The meeting will address any electoral exceptions that may arise. Electoral decisions rest with the Election Committee.
- Candidates must attend the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 5:00pm.
- Candidates who are out of town may attend all above mandatory meetings by phone or by skype, but must give the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) 3 days notice.

Please address any questions or comments to the Election Committee (Brandon Love (CRO), Amna El-Shatshat, Filzah Nasir, Menaka Shanmuganatha, Alex Diceanu, Jessica Bonilla-Dampthey) at [alex@wpirg.org](mailto:alex@wpirg.org).

## **Why join the Board?**

Joining the WPIRG Board will provide you with unique and valuable experience using consensus decision-making, creating budgets, working with and supporting staff, evaluating events and projects, conducting long-term visioning and supporting student action within a not-for-profit environment.

## **What do Board members actually do?**

- Participate in decision-making at regular board meetings
- Make sure activities are operated under our mandate and the organization's activities operate within an anti-oppression framework
- Participate in committees of the Board working on specific issues, such as outreach and engagement, AGM planning, developing policies and activist development
- Collaborate with staff to set annual priorities through extensive visioning processes
- Track the needs, challenges and successes of WPIRG throughout the year - conduct regular evaluations of staff, events, projects and priorities
- Support staff in their work with projects, Action Groups and organizational development - recruit, hire and support new staff, when necessary
- Develop an annual budget and monitor spending through the Treasurer
- Recruit and train new Board members, and hold annual elections and meetings
- Monitor organizational policies and by-laws and update them when necessary

## **Board members can also:**

- Represent WPIRG at OPIRG network meetings, and work to strengthen the network - conduct research for new WPIRG initiatives and projects
- Work with staff to apply for grants, plan events, and network with other groups - participate in volunteer orientation, training and appreciation
- Represent WPIRG at events and meetings
- Identify and participate in opportunities for board and staff development

Most of these tasks are done in collaboration with staff, who provide valuable knowledge, support and institutional memory.

## **What is the time commitment?**

Board members are elected for 2-year terms and should be prepared to dedicate between 3-6 hours per week, including attending Board meetings, reading documents, reading emails, participating in committee work and any additional details. Board members are eligible to take a 4-month leave of absence for co-op or other commitments.

## **Should you run?**

Yes – If you are a UW full-time undergraduate student or community member (non-full time undergraduate students) who preferably has some familiarity with WPIRG; if you are enthusiastic, motivated, positive, organized, group-oriented, committed and willing to learn; and if you want to support other students in creating social and environmental change. WPIRG promotes learning through experience and is committed to creating a supportive learning environment in which incoming board members will gain the skills to be a great board member! WPIRG welcomes the contributions that individuals from marginalized communities bring to our organization, and invites aboriginal people, people of colour, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenderd people, trans-sexuals, intersexed people, working class people, single parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, and people with disabilities to run.

# WPIRG Board of Directors Nomination Form

We, the undersigned voting members of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, nominate \_\_\_\_\_ as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors.

(PRINT LEGIBLY)

10 signatures from WPIRG members in good standing are required for candidates who are undergraduate students, and 5 are required from other candidates (community members).

NAME	SIGNATURE	STUDENT #	DATE

## Declaration of Candidacy

I, the undersigned-voting member of the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, accept nomination as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors. I understand and accept that the following conditions apply to my candidacy:

- Candidates are required to attend a candidates' meeting at the close of nominations for the explanation of election rules, and another just prior to the General Meeting, at which the election is to be carried out, in order to see that any electoral exceptions are addressed.
- Candidates are required to follow election rules as presented by the CRO at candidates meetings.
- Candidates are responsible for ensuring their own eligibility, in accordance with **WPIRG by-laws**.

I also understand and accept that I have the right to appeal any decision of the CRO or the Election Committee to the Board of Directors, who shall be the final authority in any such appeal.

SIGNATURE                                  STUDENT NUMBER                  DATE

\_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE:

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_