

## **DIRECTOR-STUDENT NOMINATION FAQs**

### **Q: Who's eligible to run for the SAC Director-Student position?**

**A:** Candidates must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a SAC student associate as of the submission of your application and throughout your term as SAC Director-Student; (please allow five working days for your membership application to be processed)
- be enrolled in a recognised Canadian university program offering a graduate degree in either audiology or speech-language pathology;
- have completed the first year of your graduate degree program by spring 2023.
  - Students at Dalhousie University must have completed the first or second year of their graduate degree program by spring 2023.

### **Q: What does the Board of Directors do?**

**A:** Directors of the Board develop SAC policies, approve the budget and direct the affairs of the association in the best interest of all members and associates (see the Board of Directors Job Description for more information).

### **Q: What are the expected duties of the Director-Student?**

**A:** The Director-Student is expected to:

- chair teleconference meetings for SAC student university representatives twice a year;
- encourage social media activities including SAC Student Facebook group postings and maintenance of the SAC Director-Student twitter account;
- Maintain the Director-Student email account;
- respond to student inquiries (e.g., email, Facebook, twitter);
- attend refreshment breaks and poster sessions at SAC's conference or events to meet and greet student associates;
- orient the incoming Director-Student of the roles and duties of the position;
- Sit on SAC committees
- Act as an ambassador for SAC with fellow students;
- Work with SAC's membership to encourage student membership.

### **Q: What is the role of the Director-Student?**

**A:** The Director-Student is a liaison between the universities' SAC student associates and the Board of Directors. The primary roles of any Director are to:

- Support the future growth and well-being of the association and its members and associates.
- Act and make decisions based on the best interests of the association and its members and associates nationally.
- Commit the time and energy required to fulfill duties and responsibilities to the best of her/his ability.
- Contribute to the skills-based Board.
- Foster a constructive working environment through a supportive and positive attitude.
- Support efficiency and effectiveness by nurturing an environment that focuses on outcomes and results, not activities.

**Q: What are the benefits of serving as the Director-Student – What’s in it for me?**

**A:** You will:

- develop skills in the areas of governance, leadership, decision-making, strategic planning, problem-solving, communication and advocacy;
- learn about our multi-disciplinary professions across Canada;
- have excellent networking opportunities with affiliates;
- gain national recognition by peers, colleagues and future employers;
- attend complimentary continuing education sessions for Directors; and
- participate in Board meetings and attend the SAC Conference or Event (expenses covered).

**Q: What time commitment am I making if I am elected to the Board?**

**A:** The Board meets in person twice a year for 1.5 days (Saturday and Sunday until noon), in May and November. The Board meets via Zoom for 2 hours in February and September.

- Prior to all meetings, Board Directors are required to review meeting documentation.
- Additional time is required to review e-vote documents (4-6 times a year). Board Directors are also expected to prepare and review quarterly management updates and respond to association inquiries in a timely manner.
- There are certain times of the year that are busier than others. On an average week, the Director-Student responds to emails, sends reminders to student reps about upcoming deadlines and communicates with Board Directors about upcoming initiatives. On average, you would typically spend less than an hour a week emailing (although it can be more on weeks where deadlines are approaching).
- Twice a year, the Student Administrator organizes a teleconference of university student representatives from Canadian graduate degree programs in audiology or speech-language pathology; answers their questions about OAC, the exam, issues they wish to bring to the attention of Council or management, etc.

**Q: What is the difference between the Director-Student and student representative positions?**

**A:** The Director-Student provides a voice for students across Canada through communicating with student reps at each university. The Director-Student ensures that students' interests are heard at the Board level. Student representatives communicate directly with students at their university to ensure students are aware of initiatives and deadlines as well as answer questions regarding SAC.

**Q: What is SAC's governance model?**

**A:** SAC has a skills-based Board; however, efforts are made to ensure representation from all regions of Canada. There can be no more than two Directors from the same province/territory serving on the Board at any given time. (The Director-Student, Director-University & Director-Communication Health Assistants can be from any province/territory.)

**Q: Who is eligible to vote for Directors?**

**A:** SAC members who have renewed their membership by 7 days in advance of the election opening are eligible to vote. SAC members (S-LPs and audiologists) in good standing will receive a unique voting link, which takes them to an independent third-party election software portal. Members will have two weeks to vote.

**Q: When does my term effectively begin?**

**A:** Your term commences after the SAC members ratify the election results at the Annual Meeting of Members in the year you were elected (May 24, 2023). You will serve a three-year term (2023-2026).

**Q: What position(s) will I have to resign from in order to serve on the SAC Board of Directors?**

**A:** If you are elected to the SAC Board, you will have to resign your employment with any if the organizations listed below or your current volunteer position(s) on any of the boards of the following organizations:

- Provincial/Territorial professional association;
- The Canadian Academy of Audiology;
- Provincial licensing body;

**Q: Who can support my application for the Board of Directors?**

**A:** Any SAC member in good standing, with the exception of a current SAC Board Director or a member of the SAC Nominations Committee.

**Q: Under the skills and special interests section are you looking for more personal skills and interests or is this section about professional skills?**

**A:** It can be either, as a student, SAC recognizes that you may not have had many opportunities to develop your professional skills. On the other hand, some students have had other careers before pursuing a career as an S-LP or audiologist.

**Q: Wondering what to include under the "other affiliations" section?**

**A:** Some students may have served as a university student rep, on a provincial association board or other boards such as a local church council or sports governing board.

If you have more questions, please feel free to email the current Director-Student at [director-student@sac-oac.ca](mailto:director-student@sac-oac.ca) or SAC at [volunteer@sac-oac.ca](mailto:volunteer@sac-oac.ca).