



Tertiary Education Union Te Hautū Kahurangi o Aotearoa

## **Auckland Branch**

### **Organizing and Participating in University of Auckland Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees.**

- 1 The Branch resolves to organize in relation to elected positions on Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees. The Branch aims to have a TEU member on every elected staff position on Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees.
  - 1.1 This document defines how the Branch will organize in relation to elected positions for University of Auckland staff on Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees. From time to time the Branch may also endorse candidates representing other voting sectors, such as alumni, and the following principles will, as appropriate, apply in any such cases.
  - 1.2 Nothing in this document purports to make any statement about the work of TEU members on Council, Senate and committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees in cases in which a given member has the right to be a member of Council, Senate or a committee ex officio or as a result of being appointed to such membership by the employer.
  - 1.3 The purpose of the processes set out in this document is, first, to allow TEU members who wish to be endorsed by the TEU as suitable candidates for Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees, to be considered for such endorsement; and, second, to create a process whereby candidates who are endorsed by the TEU and elected will be accountable to TEU members for their elected work on Council, Senate or the committee in question.
- 2 The Branch Committee will decide whom to endorse.
  - 2.1 In advance of any election, the Branch Whip (or if there is no Branch Whip, a Co-President or their nominee) shall make a call to TEU members asking if any members would like to seek TEU endorsement. In addition, the Whip (or if there is no Branch Whip, a Co-President or their nominee) shall consider who ought to stand and if necessary ask suitable person(s) to consider standing. It shall also be the duty of Branch Committee members in advance of the closing date for each elected position to look proactively for TEU members who would be suitable for the body in question, and draw them to the attention of the Whip (or if there is no Whip, a Co-Branch President or their nominee).
  - 2.2 Candidates for endorsement for vacancies open to staff shall be members of TEU, or failing that of the PSA, NZEI or SFWU. No candidate who is not a union member shall be endorsed for a vacancy open to staff.

- 2.3 TEU or other union members who are considering offering themselves as candidates in any given election should approach the Branch Whip (or if there is no Branch Whip, a Co-President or their nominee) and seek endorsement for their candidature in advance of the closing date for nominations for that election.
- 2.4 No candidate shall be considered for endorsement by the Branch Committee, or endorsed unless he or she has first asked or agreed in writing to be considered for endorsement. Considerations for endorsement and a case for endorsement must be received by the Whip (or if there is no Branch Whip, a Co-President or their nominee), no later than five clear working days from the closing date for the nominations.
- 2.5 The Branch Committee may grant or deny that endorsement after taking a vote in each case. Votes may be called at meetings or via email; the Whip (or if there is no Branch Whip, a Co-President or their nominee) shall be returning officer in all votes.
- 2.6 A candidate shall be endorsed when at least one third of the membership of the Branch Committee members cast their votes, and a simple majority of those votes favours the candidate's endorsement. (Abstentions shall not be taken into account.) The Branch Co-Presidents may vote once only. (There shall be no casting votes.)
- 2.7 The Branch Committee may endorse as candidates for election to a given body, as many union members as it judges to be suitable for membership of that body; it may endorse more candidates than vacancies available.
- 2.8 Candidates whom the Branch Committee members vote to endorse may write 'Endorsed by the TEU' on their candidate materials (if permitted by the Returning Officer).
- 2.9 If no valid written consideration has been received under 2.4, the Whip may accept late applications and Branch members will go through the process outlined in 2.6.
- 2.10 If the number of elected positions exceeds the number of candidates endorsed by the Branch Committee under 2.4, the Whip may accept late applications and Branch members will go through the process outlined in 2.6.
- 2.11 The Whip (or if there is no Branch Whip, a Co-President or their nominee), shall send at least one email to members eligible to vote in the election either prior to the voting opening or after the voting has opened in the elections for positions where TEU endorsed candidates are standing. The email will state that members endorsed by the Branch Committee are standing for election in those elections.
- 3 The TEU Auckland Branch through the Whip shall provide a channel for accountability of elected Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees to the people who elected them.
- 3.1 If elected members learn information (not received in confidence) in the Council, Senate, committees of Council or Senate and Faculty committees which the

member believes may be of use to other members, the member shall forward that information to the Branch Whip or a Co-President so that information can be fed back to the Executive and Branch and discussed by the Executive and Branch. In addition, those aforementioned members are encouraged to attend Executive or Branch meetings to discuss this information with the Branch.

- 3.2 Confidential information that elected members learn from committees shall not be passed onto the Whip, the Branch committee or other members until such time as the information loses its confidentiality. However, if an elected member learns confidential information that the member in good faith believes is contrary to a law or breaches one of the University's policies, the elected member should report that matter under the University's Whistleblower or similar policy.