

Call for Applications: CUR Board of Directors and Presidential Line

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is now accepting nominations for Director positions on the Board of Directors (BoD) and for the Presidential Line (Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President). These leadership roles serve the CUR community by guiding the organization's strategic direction, ensuring strong governance and financial oversight, and representing CUR within the broader higher education and research communities.

Why Serve?

Serving in CUR leadership is an opportunity to contribute at the highest level of impact - advancing the mission of CUR, guiding our community forward, and shaping the future of undergraduate research. Board members serve as stewards of CUR's long-term sustainability and success, bringing strategic insight, accountability, and commitment to mission-driven leadership in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape.

Who Should Apply?

We seek members who are dedicated to the values and mission of CUR, are engaged in organizational decision-making, and dedicated to ensuring that UR thrives in the future.

Members of the board bring a blend of the following competencies and skillsets:

Strategic and Servant Leadership

- Demonstrated experience as a values-oriented leader, administrator, manager, or key contributor to strategic initiatives
- Proven ability to lead complex and mission-driven organizations or initiatives

Communication and Collaboration

- Demonstrated competence as a professional and effective communicator including amid difficult, complex, or conflicting situations
- Experienced collaborator who participates and facilitates inclusive spaces, engages diverse stakeholders, and advances collective impact
- Willingness to be an ambassador for CUR by engaging the CUR community, the National Office, external partners, and the broader community

Strategic Thinking and Foresight

- A forward-thinking mindset, with the ability to apply foresight to organizational needs and opportunities
- Evidence of innovative and multi-faceted work that results in performance and organizational outcomes
- Demonstrated competence in data-informed decision-making aligned with strategic objectives

Governance, Policy, and Nonprofit Expertise

- Knowledge of nonprofit fiduciary responsibilities, including the 501(c)(3) structure, governance, risk management, and financial oversight
- Familiarity with board and leadership development within nonprofit organizations

Board of Directors Expectations

The CUR Board of Directors is CUR's highest governing body. Directors serve as fiduciaries with responsibility for the duty of care, loyalty, and obedience, and:

- Attend and prepare for quarterly virtual Board meetings and the annual in-person June retreat (travel not funded by CUR)
- Participate in Board working groups and training sessions
- Guide CUR's strategic direction and oversee financial health and compliance
- Serve as ambassadors and advocates for CUR
- Engage in CUR programming and represent the organization externally
- Commit to serving the full term and maintain active CUR membership

Presidential Line Responsibilities

In addition to Board responsibilities, the Presidential Line serves as CUR's Board officers through a four-year progression:

- **Treasurer (Year 1):** Focuses on financial oversight and strategic resource alignment; leads the Finance Committee; serves on the Executive and Compensation Committees and the Council
- **President-Elect (Year 2):** Engages in organizational preparation, strategy development, and leadership training; serves on the Executive and Compensation Committees; Chairs the Council
- **President (Year 3):** Serves as the chair of the Board; oversees strategic implementation; serves on the Executive and Compensation Committees; and partners closely with the Executive Officer
- **Immediate Past President (Year 4):** Chairs the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee; serves on the Executive and Compensation Committees; and provides continuity to the Presidential Line

These roles are designed to ensure institutional memory, strategic continuity, and strong, future-focused leadership. Candidates for the Presidential Line must demonstrate deep understanding of CUR's mission, strategic priorities, and governance needs, and must be prepared for a sustained, high-impact leadership commitment.

Presidential leaders will:

- Dedicate significant time to CUR's strategic priorities and initiatives
- Lead board performance assessment and volunteer pipeline development
- Serve on the Executive and Compensation Committees
- Oversee EO evaluation, governance, and CUR's public voice
- Participate in leadership development and cultivate effective working relationships

Application and Selection Process

Deadline: November 23, 2026

Available Positions

- Three Director positions serving three-year terms
- One Presidential Line position serving a four-year progression: Treasurer → President-Elect → President → Immediate Past President

We encourage applications from individuals representing a wide range of institutions, disciplines, career stages, and backgrounds who are committed to excellence and innovation in undergraduate research. We also encourage applications from individuals who have experience with higher education associations.

Qualified candidates should submit their application and supporting materials via the CUR Nominations and Elections webpage. Please collect all materials prior to beginning your submission, as partial submissions will not be reviewed.

Application Requirements

- **Nominee Information**

Full name, institution, and a link to any relevant supplemental information (e.g., CV, LinkedIn profile, biography, campus website, personal website, or blog)

- **Abbreviated CV**

Upload a condensed CV highlighting professional accomplishments and experience aligned with undergraduate research and the competencies outlined in the call for applications (4-page maximum, 11 pt font)

- **Board Director candidates**

- **Board service statement (750 words maximum)**

A statement highlighting how your experience and perspective on CUR's future prepare you to serve as a Board Director.

- **Presidential Line candidates**

- **Leadership vision statement (750 words maximum)**

Describe your vision for ensuring CUR's long-term sustainability and success over the next 5–10 years. What opportunities and challenges do you see for the organization, and how would you help position CUR to thrive?

- **Governance and leadership reflection (750 words maximum)**

What do you believe are the most important responsibilities of a Board member and officer, and how would you approach those responsibilities?

Candidate Vetting, Notification, and Election Process:

The CUR Nominations and Leadership Development Committee will vet all candidates and may request additional information during the process. Selected candidates may be invited to participate in panel interviews.

The NLDC will present an approved slate of candidates for board-level roles in early Spring 2027. Members will have an opportunity to petition for an additional candidate to be added to the slate (requires 3% membership support). The final slate will then be presented for a Board vote.

All candidates will be notified of election outcomes in April 2027, with results announced in mid-May 2027.

Terms of Service

- Director term: June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2030

- Presidential Line term:

- Treasurer: June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2028

- President-Elect: June 1, 2028 – May 31, 2029

- President: June 1, 2029 – May 31, 2030

- Immediate Past President: June 1, 2030 – May 31, 2031